The Man Picked up by the Gods

Volume 2

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Table of Contents

Forward 3
Chapter 1 4
Chapter 2 11
Chapter 3 16
Chapter 4 21
Chapter 5 31
Chapter 6 37
Chapter 7 42
Chapter 8 48
Chapter 9 55
Chapter 10 60
Chapter 11 67
Chapter 12 73
Chapter 13 79
Chapter 14 86
Chapter 15 93
Chapter 16 99
Chapter 17 105
Chapter 18 112
Chapter 19 116
Chapter 20 121
Chapter 21 125
Chapter 22 131
Chapter 23 138
Chapter 24 143
Chapter 25 149
Chapter 26 156
Chapter 27 161
Idle Talk 1 (Extra Story) 168
Glossary 173

Forward

Translator: Jigglypuff
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Synopsis:
Ryouma Takebayashi, 39 years old, found himself in a strange white room. The gods tell him that he has died and they are sending his soul to a different world, a world where magic exists.

Chapter 1

2nd day of the Mine Monster Subjugation Request.

~Side Ryouma~

Just like yesterday, we will also be subjugating monsters today.

Although I said I'd become independent, the truth is I'm still being spoiled by Rheinhart-san and the others. So even if it's just a little I need to start doing my best.

There's no problem with where I'm going to be living since I'll be staying in the abandoned mine. As for my training and my discipline, I'll just go with my previous life's routine and also meditate. Aside from that there's nothing else left except taking requests from the guild, getting along with others, and piling up my experiences in this way.

The problem is my cost of living. But it's not like I don't have any money. I have the reward money I got from subjugating that bandit called Melzen of the Red Spear, which totals to 700 small gold coins. And I also have the money I looted from all the bandits, which total to 40 medium gold coins. And then lastly, although it's not much, I have the money I got from selling off the equipment of the Fang of Orbtem's members. So for a while I should be able to live a bit luxuriously.

As for making money, if I were to accept the guild request to clean out the latrine pits. Then if I were to clean all 30 pits, I should get 3 middle silver coins, totaling to 3000 suits. For a normal guy, this should last for 30 days.

Moreover, if I were to sell the iron ingots and the water proof cloth wholesale to Serge, I should be able to make more than enough.

While I'm not particularly troubled over it, but because it seems like I'm making money too easily… and because there is high risk involved when working as an adventurer. I figured that I should also think of a different way to make money.

That method doesn't have to be anything special or make me too much money. In fact, I would go so far as to say that as long as I can make just barely enough to get by then it would be fine.

Why? Because ever since I've come to this world, until I met Rheinhart-san and the others, I haven't used a single suit to keep on living. 100 suits a day should be more than enough for use in case of emergency… and as for the rest of the time, I'll use it to train myself.

"Ryouma-kun. Hey~, you listening~?"

Ah, no good. I got too caught up in my thoughts again…

"Sorry, I was thinking of something. Is something the matter?"

Syria-san shook her head.

"It's not good to be distracted in the middle of a fight… is what I thought I'd say but…"
"Even though you're not really here with us in spirit, you still managed to easily dispose a magical beast."

Wereanna glanced at me.

"Not even a single beast came over to us, you know?"

"Ah, sorry. My body just moved by itself…"
"Eh, forget it already. Rather than that, I'd like you to stop killing monsters nonchalantly while muttering something, nya. It's really scary, nya."
"That's… I'm sorry."

Was I unconsciously speaking out loud…?

Jeff-san glanced at me and asked, "About that, Ryouma, are you having problems with your finances? You said something about living expenses so…"
"Actually…"

As I tried to talk about my situation, a male adventurer came.

"Immediately gather by the entrance of the mine! We're having a meeting!"

Seeing the anxious adventurer, Wereanna asked, "Did something happen!?"
"The goblins made a village in a corner of the mine. What's more is that it's quite big. Fortunately, no adventurers had died, but there are many G Rank adventurers who have been injured."
"A goblin village, huh? If we don't get rid of it quickly…"
"I'm gonna go call the others too, so you guys hurry up and gather by the entrance!!"

As he said that, the man left hurriedly. We also left hurriedly and gathered by the entrance of the mine. A lot of adventurers had already gathered there. After waiting for a while, the guild master went up on the stage that was prepared just a while ago.

"I think you've already heard most of the story, but I'll explain it now! Just a while ago in the tunnel where the goblins were, we found a village in that area! Because of this we'll be starting an operation to completely wipe out the goblins! Consider this to be a mid-scale operation! There should be around 500 goblins! In order to lessen the damages as much as possible, D Rank adventurers up will be the ones to lead. Each rank should gather together and follow orders!!"

After that the guild master finished talking and called out to me.

"Ryouma, you here?"
"I'm here."
"Although you're an F Rank right now, in terms of ability you're already up to E Rank. Also, this request is for your E Rank promotion, right? So although it's a bit early, I'll have you participate as an E Rank."
"I understand."
"No one has any complaints, right?"

At guild master's words, no one came to object. I guess it's the effect of yesterday's incident.

"Alright! Everyone ready yourselves! If there's anyone of you that needs some equipment, then come over here! Once you've finished your preparations, go gather with your respective ranks and start the operation!"

After that, I gathered with the other E ranked adventurers and took with us the G and F ranked adventurers. Our mission is to block the path of the goblins fleeing and to kill them, making sure no one escapes.

I then entered the meeting of the E Rank. There, the leader that was elected, a female adventurer named Poly, pointed her finger at a point in the map and began explaining the operation.

A, B, C, and D ranked adventurers are going to attack the tunnel and village from both directions, sieging and breaking into it. They will kill all the goblins running away except for those going a certain direction. And the ones waiting for that certain direction are us, the E, F, and G ranked adventurers. We are hiding in wait a little

distance away from where the goblins fleeing are headed to. When they get here, we will be killing every single one of them without letting anything escape.

"I believe everyone already knows this, but our mission is to lay here in wait for the fleeing goblins, and then kill them all without letting a single one escape. Also, because we've taken with us the F and G ranked adventurers that have no experience, we need a way to ensure their safety. If anyone has any suggestion regarding this matter, please feel free to speak up."

Many people raised their hands and gave their suggestions. I also gave my own suggestion, which was to use the method I had applied while I was in the forest.

"It was Ryouma-kun, right? What is it?"
"Yes, I have a method when dealing with a great number of goblins. What we could do is to dig a ditch between the nest and the place where we are waiting at and then fill that ditch with acid slimes. And then..."

I took out from my item box, a long rod with a knife attached to it, making it out to be something like a scythe.

"The goblins that have come near can be dealt with, with something like this together with the acid that has been poured into the hole. As for the people from afar, they can be dealt with archery and magic. With this method, the goblins that have fallen into the hole are powerless. Only a few of them should be able to climb up, and while they're climbing we can pierce them with our spears. And then as long as we stay wary of the goblin archers and the goblin mages we should be fine, and even the beginner adventurers will be able to fight."

There were quite a few people that liked my idea, and from the looks of it, it seems they have taken it into consideration. They also asked questions about it, and together we were able to hammer out the details. In the end, it was decided that we will be going with my proposal.

I took with me several adventurers that can use earth magic and went to an area in our waiting point, where there were cliffs on both sides of the path. Then using earth magic, we dug a hole that was 4m long, 50m wide, and 3m deep.

Inside the ditch we had just made, holes could be seen here and there. Deep inside this hole is a hollow area. This hollow area is for the sake of hiding the nucleus of the acid slime. In order to keep the slimes from being killed in an extremely unlikely case where a goblin is able to hit their nucleus, they can hide their nucleus in here.

The slimes will extend their tentacles from inside the hole, and melt the goblins that have fallen. The acid slimes start producing acid, and after a while they were able to make a pool of acid and digestive fluids.

When we started this operation, a different group had brought our luggage. The contents of the luggage were the long rods cut out from the nearby trees, and the scythes of the cave mantis that we've killed.

The cave mantis' scythe isn't that sharp but it's strong in its own way. Because of that we decided that it's good enough if its purpose is just to drag the goblins down the hole. I sent an order out to the sticky slimes in my mind, and had them glue the rod and the scythe together with their sticky liquid.

We also used the earth we dug out with earth magic to create some railing on our side, so as to prevent ourselves from falling in to the hole we had just made. We also made a small tower for magicians and archers to stand on. With this, they'll be able to shoot from quite a distance.

The small tower is quite conspicuous, so I put up an anti-physical barrier with barrier magic to protect from the goblin archers. It's also important to note that the anti-physical barrier can only block physical attacks and magic attacks will pass through, so everyone still had to be careful of the goblin mages.

It would be great to have put up the barrier on everyone, but unfortunately I'm not that proficient at it and the strength of my barrier is still not that strong. My barrier can work against arrows, but against blunt objects, it'll break quite easily. Also, if one were to get hit by enough arrows, the barrier might also not last either. Because of this we should put the subjugation of the goblin archers and the goblin mages at maximum priority.

The adventurers ranked F and G are responsible for subjugating the goblins near the ditch we made. As for the E Rank adventurers, they are responsible for fighting in close combat at both sides, driving the goblins down the ditch, and assuring the safety of the F and G ranked adventurers. As for me, I'm waiting right at the center of where we're waiting for them, striking the goblins from a distance with my bow.

With this, we've finished our preparations, and are resting until the battle begins.

After that 1 hour passed, and the battle began.

"Everyone's at their positions, right? It's a bit early but the enemy is coming! Please be careful!"

At poly-san's words we all riled ourselves up. And then after 10 minutes, the first goblins came.

"They're here! 3 in front! And then there's more coming from the back!"
"Roger that!!!"

After I reported that I've spotted them, the people around me raised their voices. The goblins also noticed us, but because their heads aren't very good, they came at us in a straight line. The first one of the three goblins, didn't need to be dragged down the hole and fell by itself. The second one became wary of the hole when it saw the first one fall, but then it got dragged in by the scythe-like rod of one of the adventurers. The third one tried to jump over the hole, but being unable to jump far enough, it came falling straight into the hole.

The goblins that have fallen, cried voices of suffering, but because of being spit on by the acid slimes and because they swallowed the acid, they died fairly soon and it became quiet again. Their bodies were then melted by the acid slimes.

After that, many goblins came one after another. Some of them were made to fall in the hole, while some were felled with arrow or magic. By the way, all the arrowheads I'm using have being dipped in the poison slime's poison. Because of this even if it's a light injury, they'll immediately become unable to move. Like this we were able to put a stop to the attacks of the goblin archers and the goblin mages, and until now not one of us has been injured.

Because I have the Magic Detection skill I can instantly tell when the goblin mages are trying to use magic. And although they can use magic, it's not like they're particularly skilled at it, so their invocation is quite slow. As for me, I'm using my Magic Detection, so before they're even able to invocate, I can shoot them down.

Until now there's been no casualties on our side, but… what's up with this number? There's just too many of them. The goblins we've subjugated already number over 500… and on top of that, the digestion fluids of the acid slimes are failing to keep up with the body count, and the corpses are starting to pile up. It's not a problem yet, but at this rate it will be quite troubling…

The surrounding adventurers also started to be confused.

"Isn't something strange!?"
"True, there's really too many of them."
"At this rate we'll run out of arrows!"
"My arrows are running low!"
"You there! Don't waste the arrows!"
"Haa… Haa… why are there so many goblins… until when are they gonna keep on coming?!!"

Goblins are not strong for a magical beast, and they're not something that's hated either. With a stature not bigger than that of a human child's, their power isn't all that great. The only problem is that they possess the knowledge to use weapons and the fact that they reproduce ludicrously fast.

Also even if their skill is bad, as long as they have something sharp and can swing it, then it's more than dangerous enough. There's also the fact that because there's so many of them, it becomes rather difficult for a single person to fight them alone. As for us we have over a 100 people ourselves, according to what I've heard in the meeting. But more than half of that is made up of F and G Rank adventurers. These adventurers aren't very strong to the point where they actually find 1v1'ing a goblin quite difficult, so much so that they can actually lose. And when they do fight they are only able to take out one at a time, and have a tendency to forget their surroundings and can get hit easily when attacked from the side. Naturally, someone with that kind of ability can't be sent out to the front lines to act as the vanguards.

Because of this, the E Rank adventurers are the ones who were made to fight in close quarters, but unfortunately, their numbers are just insufficient. And although E Rank is the level at which an adventurer is finally able to show some degree of ability, in the end it is still a beginner's rank.

Also, it's not like all E Rank adventurers can fight in close quarters. Depending on the person, there are people that specialize in the bow, in magic, and then there are also people that specialize in healing magic. In the end, the number of people that can fight in close quarters number only to 28. And although there are also goblins that have been felled by arrow and magic, the people fighting as vanguards are already starting to show signs of fatigue. There are also people that have incurred some damages. Although they would come back to the front lines right after being healed, it looks like they're already at their limit. It's true that it was certainly possible to deal with a few goblins running away, but this number of goblins is just too much.

It's fortunate that Poly-san hasn't lost her calm yet, but if we don't do something about this, it'll be really bad.

"Poly-san should I take the front lines with my slimes? It looks like it's going to be a long battle, so please let me take the front lines and during that time let's allow the adventurers to rest."
"Well that's true. Can I entrust you with this?'
"Yes."
"Everyone in the front lines! Right now Ryouma and his slimes will substitute with you! During this time, even if it's just a little bit, please use this time to recover!"

I sent the sticky slimes, the poison slimes, and the scavenger slimes that were on standby to take the front lines where the goblins were. And then I also jumped down from the pedestal, then jumped over the ditch and when I got to the other side, I gave this order to the slimes.

Fight the goblins, and show me the result of all that training you've done until now!

When I gave that order, the slimes started trembling in excitement. And then every one of them turned a part of their body into a tentacle and faced towards the goblins coming their way.

The sticky slimes would skillfully manipulate the rod the goblins were holding, hit the goblins, knock them over, and stop their movements with their sticky liquid.

The poison slimes would pick up the spears the goblins were using, smear the spearhead with poison and pierce the goblins with it.

As for the scavenger slimes, they would slip through the opening in between the legs of the goblins, wrap their tentacles around the goblins' feet, and topple them. When the goblins fell, they would then cling to the head. They would also slide underneath the feet of the goblins, and when stepped on they would move their body and trip the goblins.

Because their power is simply not that strong it's not possible to beat the goblins dead, but without being killed in a 1v1 situation and through certain varying methods, the slimes were able to kill the goblins. Especially the poison slimes that were able to kill faster than the other slimes because of their poison.

While seeing that, I also fought. Since I got here on the opposite side, the goblins have been swarming.

I take out the two short swords I have by my waist. I jump at the goblins coming at me and strike at its heart, piercing it in an instant, and without stopping I pull out my sword. I then rush at another goblin and cut its carotid artery. Next, I cut a wrist of a goblin's hand that's holding a sword, and at the same time kick it down, and have the slimes finish it off. I dodge the spears of the goblin coming at me from behind and move behind them. Continuing that, I moved my short swords, and with them I struck at their medulla oblongata.

"Guki!?'
"Goga!"
"Gue!!"
"Giiiiii!!!"

As I killed them one by one, their guts and blood filled the air. I can hear the death throes of the goblin, but I don't care. I continue to focus on only killing them one after another.

The goblins may have a similar figure to humans, but they are a magical beast race that has a far stronger life force than humans. Even if their stomach gets pierced, they can still live for a short while. However, that only means to say that they will last a bit longer than humans, in the end if they were to take a fatal wound, then they would still also die.

Moreover, they have one particular feature, which is something brought about because of their similarity to humans. What I'm referring to of course is their vital points. If I were to strike at their vital points, then it is possible to take them out in one hit. For example cutting off their wrists and cutting the carotid artery will cause them to bleed and incapacitate them.

As for the ogres and the trolls who are also similar to the humans it may also be possible, but I've never fought against them so I don't know for sure. In any case, from what I've seen so far when fighting goblins, as long as I cut their vital points, they'll bleed quickly and become unable to fight, allowing me to easily take their lives. Just like I'm doing right now. Like this, there shouldn't be any problems with subjugating these critters.

Although there is one thing concerning, their numbers. Really, they just keep on coming and coming. Exactly how many are there of these things?

The goblins might keep on coming, but in terms of war potential, we're hanging on. Because their numbers far outstrip ours, and because we were able to get some room, I made the slimes pick up the arrows that haven't broken.

I can also hear the voices of the adventurers that are resting, and from the looks of it they seem to be properly resting.

In a place somewhat distant from where Ryouma was fighting, some of the adventurers were talking. One of the female adventurers, seeing Ryouma fight, couldn't help but say, "Wait… haa… what's up with that kid? Isn't he too strong? Even though… we suffered so much…"
"We're saved…"

One of the men amongst them, calmly analyzed the situation.

“In any case, let’s leave it to that kid for the time being… He’s buying as some time right now, so let’s do our best and get some rest!! And then we’ll substitute again!!”

At that the adventurers replied in unison, “Right!!”

“Hey, are those really slimes?”
“Those slimes are really good at using the spear. They might actually even be better than me…”
“Forget being skilled. Why are those slimes using weapons!?”
“There are a lot of things weird, but at least were saved… huh? Arrow?”
“!? Archers! The slimes are bringing over arrows! Hey you! Move aside! Let the slimes pass!”

Slimes using weapons are certainly strange, but, can you really say that you have the luxury to think about that right now?

As I was thinking that, I suddenly felt the presence of magic. Looks like there’s another goblin mage!

I sheathe the short sword I have in my right hand, take out a throwing knife, and then agilely throw it at the mage, killing it one shot.

We continued like that, while the other adventurers continued to recover.

Chapter 2

TL Note:
Remember, De aru = Raypin (mage), De gozaru = Asagi (samurai)

Term changes:
Magic Power Recovery Potion -> Magic Recovery Potion.
I dont want to use MP recovery potion, because it's too game like for the other characters to mention it. The story has game elements, but the other characters don't really act like it as they barely use any game terms. So I'd like to hold off on using game terms as much as possible.

The battled continued as we substituted several times, taking turns to take rest. After we were able to slay over 2,000 goblins, they finally stopped coming.

Because of the efforts of the healers, and the heal slimes, there weren't big injuries on our side. As for the front line of the partitioned part of the ditch, it had so many dead bodies scattered on it that there was no more place left to step on.

Some time passed and 4 men came out of nowhere with space magic. These four were Raypin-san, Asagi-san, Gordon-san, and Shale-kun. Everyone else aside from Raypin-san was covered in blood.

"Is everyone alright –de aru?"
"Sorry guys! Relief really came too slow, what's the situation?"
"It looks fine, yeah? By the looks of things there also seems to be quite a lot of dead bodies here."
"Raypin-san, Asagi-san, Gordon-san, Shale-kun, you guys came, huh?"
"Hey! Ryouma, you're safe –de aru!"
"Looks like you also had a rough time, huh? You're covered in blood."
"We're the same too, so we really can't be speaking for others."
"That's true, but anyway, what's up with this number? More than 2,000 goblins came you know? And from the way you look, it would appear there were also quite a lot on your side…"
"Umu, we have to explain this."
"Umm… who is the person in charge here? I'd like to talk about the situation."
"It's me!"

That voice came from Poly-san as she came over to explain the situation.

"I see, so that's how it was –de aru."
"Yes. If it wasn't for Ryouma-kun and his slimes, the goblins would have broken through and our unit would have been destroyed."
"It can't be helped. Just being able to fight against this many without losing anyone is already a miracle –de gozaru."

"In any case, it's great that everyone is safe."
"Umm, how are the people in the main force?"
"For the meantime, the situation's been settled –de aru. However..."
"No one also died on our side, but many have been injured. The scouts weren't able to grasp the opponent's number completely and as a result there were far more than what we had originally expected. They even had a goblin king and a bunch of goblin knights serving it."
"There was a goblin king!?"

The people around started chattering at the words 'goblin king'.

"You guys! The goblin king's already been taken care of so you don't have to worry!"

At Gordon's words, everyone calmed down a little, and then right after, people started to cheer. Ignoring that, Gordon continued his explanation.

"The tunnel that the goblins were using as a nest that the scouts found was actually connected to a different place and to a different tunnel just a little bit deeper inside. 'Search' apparently wasn't able to reach until the deeper parts, and we used the map of the mine as a reference and then put up a battle plan.According to the map, there shouldn't have been a connecting route there, so the goblins must have dug a path themselves. More than likely they did it in order to widen the path and make their village bigger. There were also several pick axes which the miners seem to have forgotten."
"The goblin village we attacked was really just a small part of the real thing. A lot of them came from a nesting hole that had become really big –de gozaru. The real village and boss was on the opposite side of the tunnel, it was already after some time after we had begun attacking when we noticed that. Until then, a large number of goblins were able to escape through a different nesting hole. When we realized it, we immediately tried to stop it, but then the goblin king and the goblin knights resisted, as a result a lot of goblins came at us –de gozaru. This is the result of our incompetence, I truly feel regretful –de gozaru."

"I see… but since no one was hurt that much, please don't mind us. However, I do wonder how these many goblins had managed to keep themselves hidden for so long."
"Raypin-san says that it's most likely because they were able to feed off the small mice, the cave bats, and the cave mantises who had made their nest here. Because of that they didn't have to go near the town, and so they were able to multiply to this extent. Within the goblin's nest, there were plenty of bones belonging cave rats and cave bats. Add to this the fact that since last year no one has been coming close to this mine."
"Since this mine wasn't producing iron anymore, the public office has become negligent in managing it. And on top of not making any iron, because this mine wasn't producing anything, the administration costs regarding it has already become nothing but unwanted expenses. However…"

As Raypin-san said that, he looked around and then said, "I'm really glad that everyone's safe despite fighting so many –de aru. Since there doesn't seem to be a lot of problems on this side, would it be ok if we took some healers with us? I want to entrust them with healing the injured ones on the side over there –de aru."
"I understand. Those who still have some magic power left, and can use healing magic, please gather!"

The ones who came out to respond to Poly-san's words, were me and three other adventurers.

"Sorry but we can only take three people at most with my space magic –de aru. One needs to go by himself, but…"
"Then in that case I'll stay. Recently I've also started to learn 'movement magic' so I'll be able to follow fairly soon."
"Ryouma, you've also become able to use 'movement magic'? That's good to hear –de aru."
"Ah, Raypin-san. Is it ok if you to take something with you?"
"As long as it's not too big, then it's fine."

Hearing that, I called the two heal slimes over.

"Then, please take these two slimes with you, since I still can't use 'movement magic' while taking someone along with me."
"I understand –de aru. However, what are these slimes –de aru?"
"They're heal slimes. They're slimes that can use healing magic."
"Oh! So this is a heal slime –de aru!? I've been researching magical beasts for a long time, but this is my first time seeing one, de aru. Alright, I'll take responsibility for these two, and take them with me –de aru."
"Please take care of them."
"Umu. Then, I'll be waiting for you there. 'Warp' "

As Raypin-san said that, he took the three adventurers with him, and then warped. Next is me, I guess. I'll go give my greetings to Poly-san, and then I'll warp over there as well.

"Poly-san, I'll leave my slimes here, so please take care of them. It's fine even if you just leave them alone."
"Please leave it to me."
"Yes. Then… 'Teleport'."

I use the low level short ranged movement magic several times until I reached a place where no one was around. There I used the mid-level magic, 'Warp'. Naturally, if I were to make it known in front of so many people that I could use mid-level space magic, it would cause a huge commotion, so I went through all the trouble to do this.

When I had warped to the where the others were, I saw many adventurers who have been injured that were receiving treatment.

"Ryouma, over here –de aru!"

Hearing that, I rushed over to Raypin-san, took the two heal slimes, and while drinking the magic recovery potion I got from Serge-san, I continuously healed the injured people.

I and my slimes were healing relatively lightly injured people. Because of this they were fully awake and were able to see the slimes healing them. Seeing the slimes use healing magic, they couldn't help but be shocked.

It would appear that the heal slimes are rare even amongst the different slime races, because of that there are plenty of people who haven't seen them. But then again even if you say that they're rare, I brought two with me so it may not seem like that at all.

After I finished the lightly injured, I went over to heal the more serious ones next.

The people who were injured heavily were only a few, but those few people have bled a lot, and so it took several healers, using the middle class healing magic, 'High Heal' in order to heal them.

The low level healing magic, 'Heal' won't work on bigger wounds, but it can serve to delay it from getting worse, so with that in mind, we also joined.

I also distributed the magic recovery potions I had to the other healers.

After some time had passed, the person I was treating and the other healers who were treating others suddenly raised their voices. Hearing that, I asked the other healers in a loud voice.

"What's wrong!? Do you need more help!?"
"N– No! There's no problem!"
"It's just that, the slime here that was helping out suddenly started using 'High Heal', I was just surprised!"

Haa!? My heal slimes are!? But my heal slimes can't use any other healing magic other than 'heal'. I've never seen it use anything other than heal…

The men who heard that reply looked at me and asked, "Your heal slimes could use 'High Heal'?"

At that I immediately shook my head.

"It probably learned how to use it just now, since I've never seen it use it before."
"Well I'm grateful that the helping hands have increased!"

As he said that, we went back to healing the adventurers. Then after a while, it would appear that the heal slime who had been treating the patients that screamed a while ago and another patient have also started to use ‘High “heal’. Because of that, after using a lot of magic recovery potions, we were able to save everyone.

After the situation had settled down a bit, I tried checking the skills of the heal slimes, and apparently the skill level had become 3. Incidentally, I also took the opportunity to check mine, and it would seem that it had risen up to 2.

While I was doing that, I was suddenly surrounded by over 10 people, and they showered me with thanks. From what we’ve heard, they were apparently the comrades of the people we healed. While crying they said that if it weren’t for me, my slimes, and my magic potions, their comrades would have died.

As I was having a hard time dealing with them, the guild master came over and ordered me to act as a messenger to the unit I was a part of. Thanks to that I was able to run away. The message he had entrusted with me was to gather by the entrance of the mine.

I give my gratitude to the guild master inside my heart, and then quickly go back to my unit.

After that, I gave the guild master’s instructions to Poly-san. Then, I retrieved my slimes, and then went over to the entrance of the mine where everyone had gathered.

“Good work everyone! Today’s work ended up becoming bigger than expected, but as a result of that, the pay will also increase!”

The moment the guild master mentioned that, cheers began to erupt from all over the place.

“This time, everyone will at the very least, receive 1 big silver coin!”

At those words, the cheers became even louder. The voices of the F and G Rank adventurers were especially loud. 1 big silver coin is equivalent to 5000 suits. That’s enough to live on for 50 days. I guess this is their first time receiving such a big reward, huh?

“Does anyone have any complaints? Good! It’s still early, but we’ll proceed to dealing with the goblin corpses, and after that we’ll end the job here!”

At that, as if the guild master had remembered something, he looked at me and said this.

“Oh yeah, Ryouma!”
“What is it?”
“You’re paying for the corpses of the magical beasts, but you can have the goblins’ for free.”
“If you’re giving it, then I’ll gratefully accept, but is it really ok?”
“The goblins don’t really have any parts that can be sold, so… Hey! you guys are also cool with this, right?”

There were many adventurers who didn’t know that I was buying the corpses of the magical beasts and were greatly surprised, but no one came out to object. Many of them were saying that it’s good that they didn’t have to use magic to deal with the corpses, so they were actually grateful instead.

The method of dealing with the corpses is by incinerating them. It would appear, however, that in spite of the fire magicians being close to using up their magic power, they find being asked to use their magic to be painful and so they don’t really feel like doing it.

“In that case I’ll gratefully accept it. As a reward to the slimes, I’ll have them eat their fill.”

Just accepting is also bad. So I guess after all of this is done I'll have the cleaner slimes service the adventurers.

After that we went back to where we had waited for the goblins before, and threw the goblins to the ditch were the acid slimes were. Because I'd already retrieved the acid slimes, there were no longer any acid left in the ditch. Along with the acid, the melted goblins had also disappeared, because the acid slimes had already absorbed them.

After we finish throwing off all of the dead bodies, I put the poison slimes and the sticky slimes inside, and made them eat the goblins. As for the scavenger slimes, I had them eat the blood and pieces of guts on the ground, as a result not even a single speck of blood was left.

Now that I think about it, isn't this quite useful for removing the evidences of a crime? I really don't want to give these slimes to a bad person. Not that I have any interest of handing these to anyone.

While the slimes were eating, I told the E, F, and G rank adventurers, who I had worked with first, about the ability of the cleaner slimes, and showed it to them by using the cleaner slime on myself as a demonstration. Seeing my body, my equipment, and the smell that had clung to my clothes, all become clean, the number of people that wanted to try it overwhelmed me. In the end everyone came and asked for it.

After I had the eleven cleaner slimes clean everyone, I waited until the slimes that were eating in the ditch finish, and then after that I went over to where the main force was.

And then in the same way, I offered to have the cleaner slimes clean the people who had helped carry the dead bodies. I also had the scavenger slimes eat the dirt on the ground and the dirt in the nest of the goblins.

Just like a while ago, because the smell of the blood and bodily fluids of the goblins became extremely thin, the adventurers greatly thanked me for the cleaner slimes' service.

And then as soon as we finished dealing with the corpses, everyone dispersed, rode the stage coaches and then went home. As for me, I rested in a place a little bit separated from where the stagecoaches were, along with the slimes.

Because of all the food the slimes have eaten today, the poison slime, the acid slime, and the cleaner slime have all become able to split. But because I didn't have enough magic power in order to use the slave monster contract, I had to wait until I got enough magic power.

In order to allow my magic power to recover faster. I didn't scramble with the others to be one of the first to ride a stage coach, and decided to be one of the last to ride instead.

I really used up quite a bit of magic power today. As expected I'm quite tired…

Chapter 3

TL Note: For the record the reason I try not to do [sentence] – [name of character speaking] is because it distracts from the immersion. Or so at least someone said. But in this case, there's too many conversations and I wanna sleep already and not try to rack up my brain on how I can add names without the hyphen. So yeah... enjoy.

I was with my slimes in a place away from the stagecoaches doing nothing, when Jeff-san and the others called out to me.

"Ryouma, what are you doing in a place like this?" [Jeff]
"Aren't you going home, nya?" [Miya]
"Ah, everyone, good job today. As for going home, there's a lot people crowding over it right now, so I thought I'd take the last ride and spend my time leisurely." [Ryouma]
"You too, huh?" [Jeff]
"You too? You mean you guys are also…?" [Ryouma]
"We're also tired, you see? So we don't really feel like joining in that crowd." [Mizelia]
"Seriously… although we were hired exactly for things like what had happened today, it was still really tough." [Wereanna]

"Today was definitely out of our expectations. To have that many goblins and even have a goblin king come out. We'd normally prepare well before setting off to do a job, but this time… While we were fighting, I remembered that story. You know, that story about not letting one's guard down around weak monsters?"
"Ah, is it that true story of a country that was ruined after being attacked by 100,000 goblins? I remember! I remember! It's really a miracle that no one died today." [Shale]

There was a story like that!?

"I remember, –de aru!" [Raypin]
"What is it all of the sudden, old man?" [Jeff]
"Ryouma, can you show me that heal slime from before? I've always only heard about heal slimes, –de aru." [Raypin]
"Alright." [Ryouma]

As I said that, I called the two heal slimes over.

"Here." [Ryouma]
"I'm grateful –de aru. Fumu fumu, the body is white, and its body is quite small even amongst the slimes. I saw it use healing magic with my own eyes… it's exactly as what I've heard. What about its meal? What do you feed it –de aru?" [Raypin]
"Not much actually, since it doesn't eat anything else aside from water. The cleaner slime also doesn't normally eat meat, but if you order it to, it will eat. There's a big difference between the two though. When I thought that it was just a matter of preference, it turned out that the heal slimes really don't eat anything else except water." [Ryouma]
"Is that true –de aru?" [Raypin]
"How does it manage to live on water alone?" [Wereanna]
"The heal slime has a skill called photosynthesis. This skill allows the slimes to get the necessary nutrients by bathing under the sunlight. From the looks of things, it's thanks to this skill, that the slime can live on water alone." [Ryouma]
"There was such a skill –de aru!? Mu mu mu, how curious…" [Raypin]
"Is that slime strong?" [Mizelia]

“No, it’s ridiculously weak. It has no fighting abilities, and if it fights, it would lose even to a normal slime.” [Ryouma]
“That is weak…” [Mizelia]

“That’s probably the reason why the heal slimes are so rare. Even if a heal slime were to be born, it would immediately be killed by another beast or monster, and so it becomes extremely rare for people to find it.” [Ryouma]
“I understand –de aru. Someone with no strength wouldn’t be able to survive in the wild. So does that mean the heal slime doesn’t have any way of defending itself –de aru?” [Raypin]
“Nothing else aside from resistance skills. On top of the healing magic, it also has the strengthen vitality skill. So it can run away while being hit as it heals itself.” [Ryouma]
“So all it can do is resist, heal, and run –de aru?” [Raypin]

“It’s unexpectedly tough, but with that alone it can’t live in the wilds for long. I think it’s because they understand this themselves, that even if I tell them to do as they please, they won’t separate from me or my other slimes. Well, they can heal me and my slimes as soon as we get hurt, so they’re quite the useful bunch.” [Ryouma]
“These kids are completely healers, huh.” [Syria]
“Yes. I won’t take them out to fight.” [Ryouma]

“I see… you’ve shown me something good –de aru. Thank you –de aru.” [Raypin]
“No, if it’s something like this, I don’t mind. After all, it’s quite rare for me to show my research to someone who can understand. Something at this level is not a problem.” [Ryouma]
“Umu. Ryouma, if you have anything you want to hear about monsters, then without holding back, please ask me –de aru. I find Ryouma’s discoveries to be very interesting. I truly do not understand what the tamer guild who doesn’t value Ryouma is thinking –de aru.” [Raypin]

Hearing that, Asagi-san interjected.

“Ryouma, the tamer guild doesn’t see you in high regard –de gozaru? I have never seen a slave magic user control so many slave monsters –de gozaru. From what I’ve heard the more slave monsters there are, the harder it is to control them. So from that I think Ryouma-kun should be quite an accomplished slave magic user –de gozaru. But…” [Asagi]
“Thank you, Asagi-san. However, because of my age and the fact that I’m only controlling slimes, it really can’t be helped that they end up looking down on me.” [Ryouma]
“Age has nothing to do with ability –de aru. And also Ryouma has managed to discover these two types of slimes. The Cleaner Slime, and the Scavenger Slime both whose abilities are extremely useful –de aru. For someone to be unable to value that and not understand the value of these two types of slimes... Such a person could only be called, a fool –de aru.” [Raypin]
“I thought those two types were quite strange… are they a new race, nya?” [Miya]
“Someone who doesn’t understand the value of the Cleaner Slime and the Scavenger Slime is really an idiot. Even someone like me who can’t be called ‘educated’ can understand the value of these two types. If I could use slave magic, I’d also use these.” [Wereanna]

At Wereanna-san’s words, everyone in that place nodded. It seems that because of the latrine pits case and today’s goblin case, everyone can understand the value of the Scavenger Slime and the Cleaner Slime.

Seeing everyone’s reaction, I thought of something.

“If I made a laundromat, I wonder if I’d be able to make enough for a living…” [Ryouma]
“Laundromat?”

Looks like I didn’t just think of it, I also said it out loud.

“I thought of it just now. I figured if I announced something like, ‘Use the cleaner slime and with a low price, you can even get rid of a goblins’ dirt!’ to the adventurers, and took care of their laundries for them I would be able to make a living.” [Ryouma]
“How cheap?” [Mizelia]
“Let’s see… I’ll make a special bag, and for every one thing you put inside it, it would go for 1 small copper coin for the cheaper ones, and 1 medium copper coin for the more expensive ones. What do you think?” [Ryouma]
“““““You would!”””””

As I said that, everyone exclaimed in unison.

“Ryouma-kun, that job will definitely make a profit! If it’s a goblins’ dirt, then there are people who’d pay even 1 mid copper coin! To provide that kind of service at 1 copper coin, everyone will definitely come!” [Mizelia]
“There are people who buy new clothes and throw away their old dirty clothes, when they can’t get rid of a goblin’s dirt. It’s cheaper to pay 1 copper coin compared to buying a new one, and also, with your cleaner slime, the clothes will become as good as new. There’s no way it wouldn’t make a profit.”
“At that price, even people other than adventurers will come. When you think about the time and effort it takes, leaving it to you is faster and more comfortable. In fact, I’d want you to clean my stuff for me starting tomorrow.” [Jeff]
“As for me, I’m bad at chores, and once I’m caught up in my research, the chores, especially the laundry becomes neglected –de aru. During that time I’d hire people, but the fees are not something one could scoff at –de aru.” [Raypin]
“While in Raypin’s case, he gets charged a premium because his clothes gets too dirty after being neglected for too long… it is true that hiring people is quite expensive. Only nobles and rich people could possibly afford to do something like that, so it’s not worth it –de gozaru. With that in mind, the price Ryouma had proposed just now, would cause even the commoners to cheerfully ask for your service –de gozaru.” [Asagi]

Somehow everyone seems to be in really high spirits… it’s something I just thought of but, it seems it’s quite a big deal…

“If you’re doing it for real, then there’s plenty of potential to make a profit. And also we’ll come by as customers and make full use of that laundromat of yours.” [Wereanna]
“But why did you suddenly think of something like that?” [Mizelia]

Ah, now that I think about it, I haven’t mentioned it, have I?

“Actually, I’ve thought of various things yesterday. And so I decided that I’d be independent.” [Ryouma]
“What do you mean?”
“I think everyone knows, but I came to this town along with the duke’s family. And so they took care of me a lot, but recently… I noticed that I’d gotten too spoiled by the good will of the duke. And so I talked to them, refused their aid, and decided to become independent.” [Ryouma]
“You refused the duke’s support!?”
“What a waste…”
“Even if I say I refused their support. It’s really only about the financial stuff and lodging. I received a lot of that kind of stuff, but it’s exactly because of that, that I started to become dependent on them, and so I thought I’d focus my mind.” [Ryouma]

“But even then, that’s not something you’d normally do, you know? Something like refusing the duke’s support is something that’s normally improbable. To begin with, most don’t have that kind of opportunity.” [Mizelia]
“However that kind of thinking is admirable –de gozaru.” [Asagi]
“Hahaha… and so from what we’ve discussed, I made a promise to take the contract of one job and to contact them regularly. I’ll also be staying in this town, so because of that, I’ve been looking for different ways on how to make money.

I intend to continue as an adventurer, but on top of the contract I have with the duke, I can't go too far away from this town. There's also the off chance where I might end up becoming unable to continue as an adventurer, so in order to prepare for that, I've been thinking of several other ways to make money." [Ryouma]
"I see, then that's fine. Do your best, ok?" [Wereanna]
"Since you'll be remaining here, it seems we'll be seeing each other a lot. Let's get along –de aru." [Raypin]
"Same here." [Ryouma]

After that, we continued to chatter about trivial things, and then we went back to the town on the last carriage.

After coming back to the lodging, I was called over to Elia's room.

"Welcome back." [Madam]
"Ryouma-san, good job today as well." [Elia]
"The job ended early today, huh? Are the people at the mine doing well?" [Rheinhart]
"Huh? Haven't you been informed about it yet?" [Ryouma]
"It's because we were at the public office today, inquiring something about the management. Did anything happen?" [Rheinbach]
"Today, we found a goblin village. Seeing that we decided to destroy it… but then it turned out that there was actually a goblin king there and it turned into a huge mess." [Ryouma]
"There was a goblin king!?" [Rheinbach]
"Are you alright!?" [Elia]
"Fortunately I was only tasked with the mission of preventing the goblins fleeing from escaping, so I'm alright. The others were also quite lucky, so in the end no one died." [Ryouma]
"I see, that's good…" [Rheinhart]

"However, because the nest was big enough to have even a goblin king and its servants, the goblin knights. The goblins that came fleeing to our side numbered 2000. Like this the job today turned out to be quite big, and so after dealing with the corpses, we were told to go home." [Ryouma]
"It's really quite amazing that no one had died." [Rheinbach]
"In any case, I'm glad you're alright." [Madam]
"Seeing how hard you worked today, you must be hungry, right? Is there anything you want to eat?" [Rheinhart]
"Thank you, I'd love to eat my fill today." [Ryouma]
"The slimes worked hard today as well, right? Should we feed the slimes something too?" [Madam]
"Oh, they've already eaten their fill today with the goblins. They ate so much so that they can split again tonight, so I think it's more than enough already." [Ryouma]
"Oh, is that so? Which slimes are going to multiply?" [Madam]

"The acid slime, the poison slime, the cleaner slime, and also the sticky slimes will multiply more." [Ryouma]
"They just suddenly decided to multiply, huh?" [Madam]
"It's because they ate so much. It's not really a bad thing though. After all whichever slime reproduces, my fighting potential will increase, and the production rate of the waterproof cloth and thread will also increase, so it's not exactly a bad thing. But unfortunately, because of how many there are I'll end up having to spend quite a bit of magic power to enact the slave monster contract, and that's quite troubling." [Ryouma]
"There's so many of them, so it can't be helped. But please don't push yourself, ok?" [Madam]
"Yes. If it's too much for a day, then I'll perform the contract across several days." [Ryouma]
"Right, that's for the best." [Madam]

After that, I talked to them about what I'll be doing from now on while we ate. I talked to them about how I plan to continue to live as an adventurer, as well as my thoughts about finding other ways to make money.

After that, I tried asking about how long the duke's family will be here in the town. After all, I've never heard anything about how long they'll be staying here.

“By the way, how long will you guys be here for? I haven’t been able to ask it until now, so…” [Ryouma]
“We didn’t’ tell you? We’ll be staying here until the Grell Frog outbreak ends. Also, we’ll stay here for as long as Elia’s enrollment date will allow. We’ve already finished most of the procedures, and there’s also value in just staying here.” [Rheinbach]

Grell Frog. If I’m correct that’s…

“Grell Frog is the magical beast from which the hide used on some armor come from, right?” [Ryouma]
“Umu, its hide is definitely used to make armors. On top of that, its guts are also used to make medicine. Every year, around this time, a lot of them come out in the swamps around here.” [Rheinbach]
“Halfway from this city towards the abandoned mine, there’s a swamp with red mud. Every year, that’s where the Grell Frogs come out in great numbers. Our goal in staying here is to bring Elia to that place the moment the Grell Frogs erupt.” [Rheinhart]

“Are you going to defeat the Grell Frogs?” [Ryouma]
“That’s secondary. We’ll be heading there on foot for the sake of training how to travel. It’s not really a place a carriage can normally go to. Also that place doesn’t have a good environment, so going there is also for the sake of getting used to places with bad environments. As for why it’s bad, it’s because the mud of that swamp releases a really bad odor, and then some.” [Rheinhart]

“It’s not all that bad. At the same time as the outbreak of Grell Frogs, the Rimel Birds that feed on the Grell Frogs will also come. The Rimel Bird is a magical beast bird with beautiful blue wings. But not only is its appearance beautiful, even its voice is. It can also fly quite fast, so it’s quite popular. Unfortunately though, it’s quite difficult to catch, so there are very few people who are able to do so. Because of that, it’s very rare to see one. Ryouma-kun, you should take this opportunity to see them.” [Madam]

It doesn’t seem to be a scary magical beast. But the fact that it eats Grell Frogs means that it’s a carnivorous bird, right? Speaking of carnivorous birds, the only thing that comes to mind are the crows. But it has color, so I guess it’s a peacock? I don’t know. Yeah, I’m curious. If that bird is coming, then I guess I’m coming to take a look as well.

“I want to see.” [Ryouma]
“Then you should come with us.” [Rheinhart]
“Then please let me come with you during the Grell Frog Outbreak.” [Ryouma]
“Of course! We’ll definitely go together!” [Elia]

I promise Elia, and then after eating I come back to my room.

There, I began to let the slimes split and contract them, but halfway through, I ran out of magic power, and so I decided to just continue it tomorrow. I still have some magic potions, but really it’d be a waste.

Chapter 4

TL Note: Some Japanese terms: Tori-mochi is a sticky gum-like substance you use to catch birds and insects. It also goes by the name Birdlime.
Edit: (2015/09/03) Some lines pertaining to silver coin → copper coin fixed.

The day before yesterday I beat up the Fang of Orbtem's members. And then yesterday, there was that goblin king incident that caused many adventurers to be hurt. Thanks to that, the subjugation of the monsters in the mine feels so slow.

Also, because of yesterday's incident, my previous group has been dissolved. Jeff-san and the others were made to lead the lower ranked adventurers to ensure their safety.

As for me, I don't need any guidance, but on the other hand you can't really put me with the lower ranked adventurers and make me lead them. After all my rank is low, and my time as an adventurer is short. If I were to lead them, rather than feeling ensured, they'd just feel even more anxious instead. So because of that, I ended up hunting by myself alone with my slimes.

Regarding my hunt, I came up with an idea to use a rod that's been covered in the sticky liquid of the sticky slime. By swinging this rod around, I'm able to catch the cave bats and the small rats quite easily, as they stick to the rod like they would to a torimochi. And as for the cave mantises, I equipped the poison slimes with the spears of the bandits I'd defeated before, and made them fight the cave mantises from a distance outside the range of their scythes. Like this, they were easily beaten and then eaten.

How should I put it? It seems that after some training these slimes have gotten quite strong. And also, after seeing these guys fight the cave mantis, I remembered that… what was that again? It's a game from Earth that was really popular once. The theme song of that game was quite odd. Even though it was such a leisurely song, from what I remember its lyrics were for some reason quite blood thirsty.

Anyway, today nothing out of the ordinary happened and we finished the job. We found 5 goblins before noon once, but it didn't have any allies. I reported it afterwards, but apparently it's just the remnants of the village we destroyed yesterday.

Halfway through the job in the afternoon, I thought of trying out various different experiments with the sticky slime.

For example I had the sticky slime stick to the ceiling and stretch itself downwards, causing it to hang. And then we moved through the tunnel while the sticky slime remained in that state. Why? Well the cave bats were quite annoying as they kept flying around like flies. So since they reminded me of flies, I figured I'd have the sticky slime act like a fly paper. Thanks to this the cave bats were caught one after another, as they found themselves stuck into the sticky slime. Naturally, they were then eaten shortly after.

What's more is that when I gave an order to the sticky slime to turn into a net right after jumping it was able to do it. So I took that slime and tried throwing it against a colony of cave bats. Mid-air that slime turned into a net, caught a huge number of them, and then fell to the ground. Hah! I completed a really convenient skill! Looks like I'll be able to use this for a lot of things…

The sticky slime is super useful! How should I put it, I think the sticky slime can really do a lot of things. It's a slime that can be used in battle, and even in one's day-to-day life.

After the job finished, I rode the stagecoach to go back home. But as we were entering the town, there was an accident and the wheel of the carriage broke. Now although I say it's an accident, it's not like anyone was injured in particular. The carriage really just broke suddenly as it swayed a lot. Running seemed to be dangerous, so like the others, we all respectively walked back to the town.

And as I was walking, I happened to pass by Serge-san's Morgan Firm.

Speaking of which, I was saved by the magic recovery potions I got yesterday. And there's also the chance that I might happen by something I can use as a reference for the bag that I'm going to use in my laundromat, so I figured I might as well stop by.

Thinking that, I entered the store. From what the female clerk said, it would appear that Serge-san was around.

As soon as he saw me, he smiled and called me over to the reception room. I tried to look at the goods of the store at the storefront, but…

"Welcome, Ryouma-sama. May I know what your errand is for today?"
"The magic recovery potion I got from Serge-san proved to be really useful yesterday, so I would like to give my gratitude for it. Also there's also something I'd like, and because I don't know any other store…"
"Is that so? Then if my store's goods could prove to be any useful, please help yourself. It is also my honor to know that Ryouma-sama chose to come to my store. May I know what it is that Ryouma-sama is looking for?"
"I'm looking for some robust bags. Also, I don't mind even if the material it is made out of is cheap. As for the size, I haven't decided yet."
"Oh? It's also depends on what Ryouma-sama is going to be putting in it, but may I know for what purpose Ryouma-sama will be using the bag?"
"This'll be quite a long story, but actually…"

As I began explaining to Serge-san about my decision to become independent, he showed me a shocked expression, while giving me a look of approval. As for my idea to start a laundromat, he showed great interest.

"I see, so Ryouma-sama plans to have a side job while working as an adventurer. And while thinking that, Ryouma-sama has even thought of preparing for the possibility of becoming unable to continue work as an adventurer. This level of planning is truly admirable for someone of Ryouma-sama's age."

Well that's because I'm actually 42 years old. I'm actually not that much of a planner when you compare me to the other uncles my age. But at the very least I do have enough reason in me to understand that the work I'm doing is dangerous and that I should prepare for it. After all, this world doesn't have insurance or pension.

"No, no, it's really not that much."
"Still, a laundromat, huh? If the price range goes from 1 small copper coin to one medium copper coin, then it will certainly attract customers. And not only adventurers but also the commoners at that. But, there's still the problem of getting people to help out who can bring out results good enough to satisfy the customer. Even if Ryouma-sama may start out fine, I don't believe Ryouma-sama will be able to handle the work load once the number of customers increases."

Ah, I forgot to talk about the cleaner slimes.

"My apologies, I forgot to inform you of something. Please wait a moment."

I took out one cleaner slime from my dimension home.

"This is my slave monster. It's called a cleaner slime."
"It's a slime I've never heard of before."

“Yes, this is a new kind of slime I discovered. I’ve already given the information to the tamer guild, but as of now the only one who has this kind of slime is me.”

Having been told directly by the gods, themselves, that it’s a new type. There shouldn’t be any other cleaner slimes, right?

“Does the laundromat have anything to do with that slime?”
“This slime has a skill called ‘cleaning’. When that skill is used, this slime will eat only the dirt of something. And of course, once the dirt of something has been eaten, it will obviously become clean. I plan to use this for the laundry.”

At those words, Serge-san had his mouth hanging open. As expected, it’s quite hard to believe…

In response to that, I then took out the loin cloth of a goblin I had defeated today from my item box and then said, “I understand it must be hard to believe with just words alone. Then in that case, please take a look at this. This cloth is the loin cloth of a goblin that I’d defeated today. If it’s alright with Serge-san, I’d like to let the cleaner slime eat this, and show Serge-san the cleaned cloth.”

As I said that, Serge-san gulped and then meekly said, “Please by all means.”
“Just in case, would Serge-san like to use ‘identify’?”
“Yes, please allow me to. This smell is definitely that of a goblin’s loin cloth, but…”

As he said that while chuckling, Serge-san used ‘identify’. Having confirmed that the cloth is in fact, a goblin’s loin cloth, I passed the cloth over to my cleaner slime. The cleaner slime took the cloth inside it as usual, and moved like a washing machine. And right there and then, the cleaner slime quickly got rid of the dirt, and then threw up the cloth on the table in the reception room. The time taken was less than 30 seconds.

Serge-san timidly took the cloth that had a clearly different color from before, and used ‘identify’ on it. As soon as Serge-san saw the ‘identify’ show the result, ‘clean cloth’, he couldn’t help but exclaim in praise as he took my hands.

“To think that a goblin’s dirty loin cloth could actually be made this clean in such a short time!”

Umm… my hands were touching that dirty goblin’s loincloth just now, so… Ah. Looks like he remembered it after seeing the way I was looking at him, since his countenance had suddenly become visibly clouded. Well this is a good opportunity, so I guess I’ll also explain about the cleaner slime's ability to clean even people. And I’ll also have the cleaner slime clean him. Of course, only the hand though.

As I explained that to him, he even went through the trouble to take my hand and uses ‘identify’ on it. And then after having the cleaner slime clean it, Serge-san exploded into a storm of praises.

You know, this guy is really not a bad guy. That, I can understand. However, mentally speaking, this guy is really exhausting…

TL Note: Gyūdon (牛丼), literally beef bowl, is Japanese food. If you’ve never eaten it, you should. It tastes good. Usually it’s beef and rice with egg and sometimes veggies too. Mmm… it’s really good. Some are expensive and some are cheap. The stores Ryouma are referring to are the cheaper ones. They go for like 250 yen to somewhere around less than 500 yen. Of course, there are also more expensive versions. Oh, and they also sell other stuff too, of course. Not just Gyudon. Here is a video that shows the cheap version of Gyudon.

Edit: (2015/09/03) 4 pieces of silver -> 4 pieces of copper.

“Please excuse my unsightly behavior. Still though, this slime is truly amazing. With this slime, even if Ryouma-sama opens a laundromat, there should be no problem. Ah, with this speed, this price, and this result, Ryouma-

sama's laundromat will surely flourish."

Ah, he seems to have gone off on a trip by himself…

"Then, how big of a bag would be good? It's quite embarrassing, but I don't know much about the market price."
"Right… I'll have several sizes brought over then."

As Serge-san said that, he called a female servant over and had her bring several bags to us.

"As Ryouma-sama can see, I've arranged the bags from smallest to biggest, starting from the left to the right. The left most can take in an average man's portion of clothes."
"A slightly bigger one would be better I think. Families in general have more laundries, and amongst the bachelors there are many who find laundry to be troublesome and end up stockpiling them. And also it's cheaper for 4 and 5 pieces of clothes to go for 1 medium copper coin, than 1 medium copper coin for 1 piece of clothing. Like this, the customers will find this to be to their advantage. There's also not much of a difference between one piece of clothing and five pieces when it comes to the efforts I have to put in on my side. And moreover I'm not even aiming to gain that much profit as all I'm aiming for is to make enough to get by. Lastly, I believe if I make one batch cheaper, then I'll be able to make a profit as plenty of people will come and use my services repeatedly."

In my previous life I was really indebted to these kind of cheap businesses… Even for lunch I'd go buy from those Gyudon chain stores.

The shop I bought from was also pretty much decided. During my previous life, I went there all the time, and so the people there already thought of me as a regular customer. I don't know how much I've paid all in all to the stores around the place I lived in, in my previous life. But I'm not dissatisfied at all, rather I'm really grateful for being supported by them in my previous life. With that in mind, I think it's important to create repeat customers for one's business.

As I was thinking that, I noticed that Serge-san's eyes were actually sparkling as they gazed at me.

"Wonderful. Ryouma-sama, to actually look into the future and not be influenced by immediate profits. Ryouma-sama already seems to possess amazing managerial insight. This Serge is in admiration."

Most of the people in Japan know that, you know? Even kids could up with this, I'm not amazing at all…

I just spoke a little of something from my experiences in my previous life, so being praised over something like this makes me feel quite uneasy. To the people in Japan that seriously study management, I'm really sorry.

"Then in that case, how about this bag over here? This bag can take up to 3 to 4 people of a normal family's 2 day's portion of clothes."
"And it seems that for a bachelor, this bag should be able to take even up to 1 weeks' worth of laundry. Yes, this is quite good, let's go with this. Also, I'd like to take around 2 or 3 bags that's double the size of this one, as well as one whose size is five times this one. Will that be possible?"
"It's possible, however isn't it too big?'

"The bag from a while ago will be targeted to individuals. The bag double its size will be for small parties of adventurers. The one five times the normal bag's size will be recommended for smithies with plenty of disciples, construction workers, and other big groups.
If we were to calculate the bag targeted at individuals as a man's portion for a day, then for a week it'll be as 7 people's portion. Doubling that will get us 14 people's portion, and five times the first bag will get us a portion for 35.
The bag targeted at individuals will go for 1 medium copper coin or 10 suits. The double-sized will go for 1 medium copper coin and 8 pieces of small copper coin for 18 suits. The bag five times the size of the first bag will

go for 4 pieces of medium copper coins for 40 suits.

Since there's a discount based on usage, I believe the number of people that will think of using the service will increase. In the instance where they don't' have enough people, then they'll talk to other people about the laundromat in order to gather people. In the end, talk of the laundromat will spread and everyone will know about my laundromat.

And because there will be more people who will use the service, there will be more clothes to wash. A bag that would normally go for 14 portions if an individual were to fill it up, could then be filled up by 14 people for a day. Like this, the customers will use the laundromat almost every day, and I'll also get a medium copper coin and 8 small copper coins almost every day as well. Like this there will be income on a daily basis. Also because the amount paid per person is cheaper, it is clearly an advantage for the customers. And so like this it can become advantageous for both me and the customer.

Moreover because jobs like smithing and construction are occupations where one can get dirty easily, I expect a large number of customers from those occupations to use my services should they come. In that instance, there is the possibility that the customers who come to know the effectivity of my laundromat with their worker clothes may come to use my services personally. There is also the possibility that their coworkers come to have their clothes washed as well.

After all, construction work and the smithy are jobs that are generally taken care of by the men. So, there are people who are bad at laundry or find doing laundry to be troublesome and neglect their laundry, right? If I am able to make one big contract for that workplace, then it should be possible to acquire those kinds of customers as well."

Fu…ah! Ah~…I screwed up, Serge-san has stiffened up… and his eyes are even wide open…Since a long time ago, I've always had this bad habit of talking one-sidedly… I've screwed up so much before because of this… I guess it's because I had a business-like talk after a long time that I ended up slipping again.

"Sorry, from time to time I have this bad habit of going on and on by myself. Please excuse my rude behavior."
"No, no, no! There's nothing to apologize for! I'm just a little surprised. Ryouma-sama should only be 11 years old. To be able to calculate at that age, and on top of that mental math is certainly something to be praised. But more than that, the business policies that Ryouma-sama had talked about just now are things that I have never heard of. However, it should definitely be a very effective method. Today, I feel as if the scales have fallen from my eyes."

That's it!? That's where you're shocked!? Oh wait, now that he mentions it I am supposed to be an 11 year old kid! Calculations are… umm, whatever. But it would appear that he's quite shocked even though all I did was spout a bunch of simple management strategies, huh? Rather than say I thought it up though, all I really did was line up the present time business strategies…Wait a moment, do they not have discounts around here? Did I really say something that shocking?

"Umm, aren't there discounts around here?"
"There are discounts, but the kind of discount that Ryouma-sama had mentioned has not been thought up until just now. Discounts are something a merchant will normally do to gain favor even at the cost of suffering some loss for the sake of future transactions. There are also cases where discounts are given in order to quickly sell something. Well those two are the basic reasons, as for others, there are also cases where discounts are given to make the customer leave quickly. And then there are also merchants that start off at an exorbitant price to customers that don't know the market price, and then they pretend to sell it at a far lower price when in fact it is still higher than the market price. But that's about it. As for shops that have a regular discount, I've never heard of such a thing."

Well, he looks like he's being serious.

"Since it has become like this, I highly recommend that Ryouma-sama register to the merchant guild."
"Merchant guild?"
"Yes. Because there is also a branch of the merchant guild in this town, it is possible to register right away. The merchant guild is unique to each country, as it is necessary for all businesses to go through it before being granted

permission. This includes even peddling, stalls, and carts."

Eh!? Then…

"Then does that mean what I tried to do just now was illegal?"
"No, on the outward the guild may be operating the businesses of many countries, but it's not like they're really in charge of everything. For one, the villages in the borders trading their own commodities as they please, and adventurers stopping by in the middle of their adventure to sell the herbs they've gathered to a pharmacy isn't forbidden.

In the same way, children or adventurers having a sideline, doing some sort of odd job, and receiving compensation isn't a problem. In those instances, the money being exchanged isn't that big, and is also not illegal, and as long as both participants show consent then it isn't a problem.

However, from what Ryouma-sama has spoken about today, the money Ryouma-sama will be stumbling into is not something that can be called small. In this situation, the guild will definitely intervene and it will become a problem."
"I see, that was close… thank you very much Serge-san."
"Not at all, I have also made light of Ryouma-sama. I thought Ryouma-sama was just going to take a side job, and make some small change. But I had never imagined that Ryouma-sama would actually come up with such deep management policies. Because of that I didn't talk about registering at the guild."

I didn't think about it that much at all actually…

"Then in order to start up my laundromat, I will have to register at the guild, right? However I am already affiliated with the adventurer's guild and the tamer's guild, will there be any problems?"
"Please rest assured as I will be recommending Ryouma-sama. Therefore there won't be any problems, and Ryouma-sama will be able to register. Also there aren't any exams in particular. And as for being a member of more than one guild, rather than that being seen as an impediment, because it will allow one to get information easier, it is actually seen as something that is very much welcome. If it's alright with Ryouma-sama we can register at the guild tomorrow."
"Tomorrow? I still have a job to do as an adventurer tomorrow, so by the time I come back it will be around the same time as today."
"That won't be a problem. The merchant guild has several staff members, and so it is possible to process the papers at any given time. After all to a merchant, information is life. And so it is of utmost important to get any information before it becomes old."

You mean even though it's a different world they have 24 hour service?

"Then in that case, if it's alright with Serge-san, then…"
"Of course!"

Woah!?

"The laundromat that Ryouma-sama has come up with is truly a wonderful thing! This business idea will be able to reap huge profits that not even merchants have seen. It will definitely create a huge sensation on how businesses have been tackled until now! I, Serge Morgan, am fascinated. Please allow me to be of help!"

Somehow he's started to really exaggerate this! To think it would actually become something so important… will this really turn out to be just some extra change?

"Th, thank you very much. Your words are very reassuring."
"Such words are wasted on me. Since it's already become like this, we also have to think about the land Ryouma-sama is going to be opening the store on."

Store!? Hey, I wasn't planning on doing something that big!

"Fumu… from Ryouma-sama's face, I suppose Ryouma-sama wasn't intending on making this that big?"
"Yes. I thought I would only be making enough to get by at most. So I thought that it would have been fine if I just took a corner of the town somewhere like a stall and then go around the neighborhood by myself. After all if it were to become a store then it wouldn't be a side job anymore."
"I see. However in terms of management, Ryouma-sama can rest assured as I am able to lend some of my people."

No, that's no good, right? Something like leaving it to others…

"No even if it's a store, leaving everything to others is…"

As I said that, Serge-san made a wry smile.

"Fumu… I feel like I've somewhat understood at least a little of what the duke was saying. Ryouma-sama, there's really nothing strange about leaving the management to other people."

Eh?

"Of course at the start, it's normal for someone to manage his store by himself. However once the store branches increase and becomes something on the level of my stores, then at that point it becomes impossible to manage everything by one's self. In this instance it's a good choice to pick trustworthy subordinates, raise them, and leave the management of the stores to them. Does Ryouma-sama find doing things in this way to be strange?"

Well… true. Now that he mentions it, it was quite common for the chain stores in Japan to have an employee manage it and not the owner…

"Certainly, it's not something strange."
"Right. Moreover there are people in the world that can and cannot do management. For people that can't, instead of forcing it, those people generally hire someone else that can do management."
"I can also understand that."
"It would seem that Ryouma-sama can't make a decision as of the present time. In my opinion Ryouma-sama has the talent for management. After all, there is the idea, the way to make it a reality, and amazing management strategies that will surely change the landscape of how businesses work. However I do not believe Ryouma-sama is very talented at the psychological war in discussions. Because, everything Ryouma-sama's face is like an open book. Everything shows."

You'd say something like that so bluntly!?

"For someone of Ryouma-sama's age it may be something concealable, but that level won't work against a sly old fox of a merchant such as myself."
"I see…"

I had some confidence in my poker face in previous life, but was that just my imagination?

"Also, I am not lending Ryouma-sama my people completely out of virtue. When Rheinhart-sama had introduced Ryouma-sama to me, he told me to give Ryouma-sama advice. Aside from that we also talked about our thoughts on Ryouma-sama's future prospects."
"Future prospects?"
"Yes. To have come up with the waterproof cloth and the thread, as well as that iron ingot at that age. Even without Rheinhart-sama's introduction, Ryouma-sama is definitely someone to watch out for. On top of that, because of the conversation today, the earnings from today onwards is something that can be looked forward to. This isn't something that a merchant such as myself can ignore. Being able to sell the bags whole sale to

Ryouma's store is also good, so I would love to have a share in this. With all that in mind let us open the capital for investments."

… Going this far, is that really ok? But you know…

"If you invest money into this and it fails, then what?"
"One who is afraid of failure would not be able to make a store big. A merchant that owns a store this size can more or less carry the risks. Moreover, nothing comes to mind when it comes to factors that will cause Ryouma-sama's business to fail. But in the case that it does fail, it will be enough for Ryouma-sama to create iron ingots and waterproof clothes to compensate the loss. The chance for success is high, and there's even a way to get back my losses. With this kind of conditions, if I didn't pitch in then I wouldn't be called a merchant anymore."

True, if I just made some ingots I would make money…

"I understand. Let's work together."
"Has Ryouma-sama started to feel like doing it?"
"Yes. But please excuse me from the financial investments. In the past I had subjugated some bandits, and because of that I have received quite a bit of compensation."
"Is that so? Then, how about the workers."
"Yes, please take care of that. Also, please let me buy the miscellaneous goods including the bag that will be used in the store, here. As for the talk regarding the ingot, let's do that at a different time. To begin with, because the management of the mine had been left to me, I had already been planning on making some."
"Thank you very much. From now on it appears that we can look forward to a good working relationship."

With this we were able to conclude our discussion. After that I bought the bag from Serge-san, who was quite in a good mood, and then left the store.

I walked back home on the road that had already become dark. When I finally got to the lodging, Elia was there waiting for me. She was not happy, no. She was clearly pissed off and was releasing a horrifying aura to go with it.

"Elia…?"
"Ryouma-san, what were you doing up till now? I was worried, you know?"

As Elia put away her anger, she burst into tears. Looks like she was really worried. Even though it was against a bunch of small fries, I still did take a request to subjugate monsters… my bad. Because of that I quietly received Elia's scolding. After that, she got tired of crying and being angry, and then just said that she's going to bed already. I was taken along by the maid as I sent Elia off.

"Excuse me. My apologies for having caused you to worry." [Ryouma]
"It's fine, since from the looks of things it would appear that you've already been scolded plenty by Elia." [Madam]
"It's true though that you made us worry." [Rheinhart]
"Be careful next time, ok?" [Rheinbach]
"Yes, I've taken it to heart." [Ryouma]
"And? Where did Ryouma-kun run off to, to be home this late?" [Madam]
"The carriage had an accident and was broken. Because of that, I walked from somewhere near the northern gate, and as I passed by Serge-san's store, I decided to stop by. Thanks to the magic recovery potion that Serge-san gave me, we were able to keep healing the injured. So I went over to thank him for that. Along with that, I thought of buying some things, but before I knew it, it turned into a long discussion." [Ryouma]
"You were over at Serge-san's? What did you talk about?" [Rheinhart]

“We talked about the ways on how to make money for me to be able to support myself, as well as the use of cleaner slimes in my laundromat. Ah! By the way, I’ll be coming home a little late tomorrow. I know I was scolded just now, but…” [Ryouma]
“It’s fine as long as you let us know, Ryouma-kun. Anyway, what’s going on tomorrow?” [Madam]
“I’m going with Serge-san to the merchant guild to register. While we were discussing my plans, for some reason it ended up becoming something big.” [Ryouma]
“What? Weren’t you just planning on making enough for your living expenses by doing chores?” [Rheinhart]
“That’s also what I’d thought of at the start. But as I was talking with Serge-san, before I knew it, we ended up talking about setting up a store.” [Ryouma]

“A store? Your discussion actually progressed to that point?” [Rheinbach]
“Serge-san’s reason was apparently because he can see a prosperous future. And so it seems that the personnel who will be taking care of the store will be coming from Serge-san’s store.” [Ryouma]
“Serge-san actually said that much, huh? So, when is the opening?” [Rheinbach]

Eh!? He actually went to ask about the opening naturally. And here I thought he was going to be surprised.

“There’s still a lot of things regarding the store that we haven’t discussed, so it’s still undecided. That aside, aren’t you guys surprised? For an 11 year old kid like me to actually say that he’s opening a store…” [Ryouma]
“Well it’s because owning a store doesn’t have an age restriction. There are kids like Ryouma that have a stall and then there are also kids that tend the store.” [Rheinhart]
“But of course there aren’t any 11 year old kids that have a store, but… well, since it’s you.” [Rheinbach]
“Ryouma-kun is different from a normal kid after all, so I just ended up thinking, can he do it? But Ryouma-kun does possess a variety of knowledge, and has even managed to get Serge’s stamp of approval, so it’s probably fine. But if anything happens you must rely on us, ok? You better not forget to contact us regularly as well, understand?” [Madam]

Is it ok with that?

“I understand.”

Well after that I was able to somehow hazily go back to my room. There I had the slimes who haven’t split yet, split. Afterwards I contracted with them.

The current number of slimes are as follows:

Type of Slime	# of Slimes
Sticky Slime	907
Poison Slime	666
Acid Slime	666
Cleaner Slime	22
Scavenger Slime	3,033
Heal Slime	2
Metal Slime	1
Slime	1

The sticky slime went over 900, in a little while it should go over 1000 too. The poison slime and the acid slime are like a pair of double dices and even have the same number. That 666 is quite ominous though…

As for my cleaner slimes, I’m happy that they doubled in number.

I wonder if it's because of the battle with the goblins. The slimes have gotten quite strong. The big slime and the huge slime acquiring the physical resistance is quite good. But I didn't' think at all that the slimes were actually capable of learning rod techniques, spear techniques, and even taijutsu.

I taught them a bunch of stuff, but I didn't think that the slimes would actually be able to learn these kind of skills. I guess I'll teach them all sorts of stuff from now on.

Chapter 5

TL Note: Names added. Since the poll went 50/50, we'll be going with the right alignment, so as to not bother the people that don't want to read the names.

Don't know if this is a coincidence but, Grisela from (グリシエーラ), Also the deposit-reward thing is like a tip to the person who helped you get housing or something, I think.

4th Day of the Monster Subjugation.

Just like yesterday, I went to the mine to kill off some monsters, then went back to the town. As soon as I got back, I went straight to Serge-san's place.

"Good evening Serge-san." [Ryouma]
"I've been waiting Ryouma-sama. Shall we go?" [Serge]

We rode the carriage that Serge-san had prepared. And with it we went to the merchant guild that was just a little bit south of the town's center. The merchant guild's building was big but plain. When we got in, there were people, but they were sparse.

We walked towards the receptionist lady, but as soon as we got to her, she immediately let us go into the back room. It seems that this guild treats Serge-san very well. Then again he is the president of a huge firm, so I guess it's a given?

After a while, a thin man and a woman with a humped back entered the room. As soon as we saw them, I stood up with Serge-san while the old woman covered her mouth as she laughed. At that, the man spoke.

"Well if it isn't Serge. It's been a while, hasn't it? I've been hearing some rumors so I was wondering what you were up to."

The man started talking with a somewhat Kansai Dialect-esque manner of speech.

"It's been a while, Pioro." [Serge]

Looks like the man's name is Pioro.

"I wonder what your business is Serge. It's truly quite rare to see someone like you who doesn't show his face around save for the meetings. Oh, and what do we have here? Little boy, it's a pleasure to meet you. My name is Grisela, an old hag and the guild master of this merchant guild." [Grisela]
"My name is Ryouma Takebayashi. Our business today is to register at the merchant's guild. I may be inexperienced and young, but please take care of me." [Ryouma]
"Oh? My thanks for such a polite greeting. Serge, is this kid your place's new servant? You've taught him quite well considering his age." [Grisela]
"True, true. There are very few kids who are able to be as polite as you. I'm Pioro Saionji, nice to meet you. When you talk to me, there's no need to be stiff." [Pioro]
"Ryouma Takebayashi. A pleasure to meet you too." [Ryouma]

Pioro nodded.

"Ryouma-kun, right? I've properly taken note of it. Madam Grisela had just mentioned it, but why did you guys come here again Serge?" [Pioro]

“We just came here to register Ryouma-sama. I’m just accompanying him.” [Serge]

Hearing that, the two people’s eyes moved towards me as the guild master took a good look at me.

“Fumu, fumu… alright, wait a moment.” [Grisela]

As she said that, she held her cane with her hand and with a thundering voice, poked Serge-san’s head.

“This moron! What are you doing fussing over a kid!?” [Grisela]
“It hurts. I’d like you to please stop hitting me guild master…” [Serge]
“I don’t know what the situations is, but this child is an earnest child. Even if he shows respect to you who is obviously an old man, all I feel is shame and uneasiness.” [Grisela]

Why does she think he’s concealing something!? Is there also a mind reading skill!?

“Ryouma, right? I can’t read your mind.” [Grisela]

Aren’t you reading it right now!?

“I may have put on some years, but my insight as a merchant hasn’t dwindled one bit. You seem to be an honest individual, so I can at least do something this much.” [Grisela]
“Is that so?” Pioro-san chuckled, “This old woman is scary, right? I mean that’s what she always says, but she’s probably actually really reading our minds.”
“Rather than being scary though, I think it’s amazing. Unfortunately I’m not very good at discerning people’s intentions.” [Ryouma]

Grisela smiled.

“Something like that, you’ll get used to it. As long as the circumstances permit it, you’ll learn it as you put on some years. You still have plenty of years ahead of you. It seems something happened in the past, but don’t worry, you still have a future.” [Grisela]
“Thank you very much, however, can you truly not read minds?” [Ryouma]
“There’s no way I can. I already knew that you were wondering whether I could read minds the moment I saw you make those eyes that looked like you were looking at something far away.” [Grisela]

Seriously!?

“My eyes did that?” [Ryouma]
“Those eyes were like the eyes of an uncle in his middle years remembering something.” [Grisela]

Bull’s eye!

“Anyhow, you may be a bit surprised, but you came here to register, right? Shall we hurry up and process your papers?” [Grisela]

Having been told that, I filled up the registration forms.

“Hmm… what is ‘occupation’? Isn’t the occupation supposed to be a merchant?” [Ryouma]
Pioro replied, “Write the trade you want to pursue. If you want to sell weapons, then write weapons merchant. But you can add to that later, so there’s no need to make that much of a fuss and write so many things now. Also there’s a list of the basic occupations written at the back, so just take look at that, then write that into the blank.”
“I understand.” [Ryouma]

Now that he mentions it, I remember hearing something about the adventurer's guild also dealing with peddling… well for the mean time I guess we'll go with that, and then… I guess I'll also write, 'a shop keeper of the store I want'.

… By the way, what is this, 'minstrel' occupation? I understand what the word means, but is this also considered a merchant?

While I was thinking that, I handed the registration forms to the guild master.

The guild master looked over the form, and then said, "Oh? So you're an adventurer? Then in that case you should take care of your body. It'd be a waste after all. And also, you want to have a store?"
"Actually I've been thinking of a slightly different occupation. At the start I had wanted to have a job on the side that I could do in between my jobs as an adventurer, but then Serge-san told me that I should make my plans bigger." [Ryouma]
"Serge, did?" [Grisela]

Pioro chuckled.

"Heh, that's quite interesting. What kind of work is it?" [Pioro]
"A laundromat." [Ryouma]

Pioro glanced at me, then to Serge-san.

"A laundromat? You plan to receive money and wash clothes? Serge, why did you have to go through all the trouble of registering for this? While it's that there isn't any loss in registering, but the same time it doesn't really matter for something like this, no?" [Pioro]
"I also thought that at the start. But after hearing from Ryouma-sama, I thought that his idea was nothing short of a gold mine! And so, since it will become a problem if he makes too much money without registering at the guild, I urged Ryouma-sama to register." [Serge]
"Can a laundromat really make that much money?" [Pioro]

The guild master made a curious face.

"I'd also like to hear about that laundromat. In all my life, I'd never heard of a laundromat that will earn so much money that it would have problems with the guild." [Grisela]

After that we finished the registration. Serge-san was the one to explain about the managerial policies we discussed yesterday. When Pioro-san and the guild master heard that, they started to groan, then they started to laugh.

"Hee-hee-hee! Living a long life is interesting because things like this happen from time to time! Ryouma, your idea is really interesting. There's never been a guy like you who's attempted to make a profit with those methods." [Grisela]

Pioro nodded.

"Certainly, if this were implemented it would certainly reap great profits. And if you don't register, it would certainly cause a huge commotion in the guild." But as Pioro was praising me, he said, "But you know… In order to implement this, you need to increase the effectivity of your laundry. If you just increase the number of employees, the expense will just pile up. Do you have some sort of plan? You have some kind of secret, right? Mind telling it? Don't worry I won't copy you."
"Alright." [Ryouma]
"Is that really ok? Even if I say I won't copy you, it may be a lie, you know?" [Pioro]

“Well, you’re an acquaintance of Serge-san, so you probably won’t lie. And also…” [Ryouma]

The guild master gave me a quizzical glance.

“And also?” [Grisela]
“Even if you try to fake it, I don’t think you’ll succeed with my method.” [Ryouma]

As I said that, I got permission from the two. I then opened the Item Box and the Dimension Home, and took out a cleaner slime and a goblin’s loin cloth from inside. After that, I explained to them in the same way I’d explained to Serge-san. **(Note: geez, how many dirty loincloths does he carry? And why does he leave them dirty?!)**

First, they were shocked by the fact that I could use a mid-level space magic. And then they were shocked by the fact that I was in possession of a new type of slime. Lastly they were shocked by its abilities.

“Ha~ Never thought I’d be shocked this much today. This shock is probably worth 8 years of shock. But now I understand. That kind of business is impossible for us. Those business policies aside, unless one has those slimes it just won’t be worth it. But since you have those, you can definitely do it. You should puff your chest up, you have a great opportunity in your hands.” [Pioro]

The guild master chuckled.

“I’ve come to take a liking to you. At this age, I don’t get surprised by trivial things anymore… and also you have quite a promising future, so you should go show your face around here lots. I’ll bring out some sweets and tea and we can have a good chat.” [Grisela]
“Thank you very much. I’ll do my best.” [Ryouma]
“Then, let’s decide on the temporary store next. Guild master, please.” [Serge]
“Good grief, you shouldn’t be use old hags roughly, Serge. Pioro, see that shelf to your left? Take the second bundle of papers in the upper section of that shelf from the left.” [Grisela]
“If you’re going to complain about being used roughly, shouldn’t you move!?” [Pioro]
“Just hurry up and get it.” [Grisela]
“Yes, yes. I’m on… wait, what is this? Isn’t this the collection of the documents of the problematic stores? Since Ryouma’s store is quite promising, shouldn’t we take out something else? If anything I can even invest some of my own money.” [Pioro]
“Moron. Weren’t you listening to Serge? The kid’s unusually serious. If you bring out your own money, he’ll obviously turn you down.” [Grisela]

Ah looks like she’s managed to figure me out in this short time that we’ve met. It’s true that I’ve always been called too serious, or stupidly honest. But that’s not all, she has actually also managed to understand that I don’t want to borrow other people’s money to make my store. A merchant’s insight is scary… in this way, even though it’s not brute force, it’s still quite scary.

“Well then, this document is a collection of the buildings with some sort of issue. But it’s thanks to this that the prices are cheap. Also, for you, you’ll be fine as long as it has a reception and a stock room, right?” [Grisela]
“Yes, since I’ll be leaving everything up to the slimes, there won’t even be a need for a watering hole.” [Ryouma]
“Hah! Normally, if someone said something like, ‘I’m going to make a laundromat, but I don’t need a watering hole.’ You’d go, ‘What are you saying!?’ …Anyway, how much money did you bring with you again, boy?” [Grisela]
“I have 700 small gold coins with me.” [Ryouma]
“Oh? You unexpectedly brought quite a bit, huh?” [Grisela]
“There were some bandits near the place I lived in before. I beat them with poison and because of that I got quite a bit of cash.” [Ryouma]
“With that much… guild master, couldn’t he take an empty plot of land near my store?” [Serge]
“Right… If I’m correct there should be one…” [Grisela]

As she said that, the guild master started looking through the documents.

"…Ahh, there is. A place facing the residential area. It has a huge bar and lodging, and then it also has a storehouse for storing furniture, but because of a fire, more than half has been burnt. Right now, there's plenty of grass growing all over, and the building can't be used anymore. Before building, you need to demolish the current building, and then prepare the soil. So it's going to take quite a bit of time. What's more is that the land is wide, so demolishing and preparing the land will both take quite a bit of time and money. Another reason it's expensive is because it's in a good location. In the end, no one's bought it, and it's been left there like that for some years now. But aside from preparing the building and the soil, there's no other problem." [Grisela]
"Ryouma-sama, I've heard that Ryouma-sama is an accomplished earth magician. This land is wide, and Ryouma-sama can change the land as he wishes." [Serge]

True, it'd be nice to be able to make it to my liking.

The guild master hearing that, said, "Since you can use earth magic, given the time, you should be able to do something, right?"
"That's right…" [Ryouma]

Earth magic's 'Create Block', and the sticky slime's 'Hardening Liquid'… yeah, I can definitely do something.

"From what I can see from the map, this is close to the residential area, making it a good location for a laundromat." [Ryouma]

The Town of Gimuru is surrounded by a sturdy wall. There is a main street that connects the center, the north gate and the south gate. To the left is the residential district, and to the right is where the steelworks and the likes are, the industrial district so to speak.

The lodging that people come here to stay at, can mostly be found near the south gate. The lodging I'm staying at right now is also there.

The north gate leads to the mine. It's mainly used by workers and so it isn't really used much by other people. When that mine became an abandoned mine, even miners had stopped using it.

In the east gate, there's another road leading to a mine. That mine isn't an abandoned mine. And since it isn't abandoned, the miners decided to live at the eastern district to make it easier on themselves to get to the mine.

The plot of land that has been introduced just now, is east from the center of the town. It's located right in the space between the residential district and the main street. From here it's close not only to the residential district, but also to the adventurer's guild. This place is probably the best I could ask for.

As I said that to the guild master, she gave me her approval.

"That's right, in the past it was a very popular bar. The location was good, and the people would come in after finishing their work. It was always packed. Even now, if you open a store here, then it will surely attract peoples' eyes." [Grisela]
"I see… then in that case I'll take it." [Ryouma]

To be honest, I don't really know much about land. But I don't think its location is bad. Not only is it close to the residential district and the adventurer's guild, but I can even make the place as I please. Also, these guys were introduced by Serge-san. They seem to be nice people. So it's fine if I trust them, right?

The guild master asked me again, "Is it ok?"

“Yes. There’re no problems with its location, and I can deal with all the preparations with my magic and my slimes. What makes it even better for me is that I can make the store as I wish.” [Ryouma]
“I’ve already said it before, but it’s quite expensive. First of all it costs 580 small gold coins. Then on top of that because the land is wide, the land tax is 10 small gold coins. And then in order to earn the right to put up a business you have to pay an additional fee of 60 small gold coins, totaling to 650. Even then, is it ok?” [Grisela]
“Yes. There’re no problems. After all I still have some allowance for my living expenses.” [Ryouma]
“True, with 50 small gold coins left over, you’ll still be able to live like a noble for a year. Also I forgot to mention it, but the fee to start a business is a one-time fee you have to pay during registration. The land tax, while not a one-time payment, is doubled when you purchase land for the first time. So from next year onwards, you’ll only have to pay 5 small gold coins.” [Grisela]
“I understand, thank you very much.” [Ryouma]

After that, I was taught all sorts of things, but from what I gather, owning a store in this world isn’t that difficult. You just have to go through the guild, buy a land and property, and start your trade there. Then all you have to do next is record your income and expenditures, then calculate the tax in line with your profits and your land tax, and then pay that to the guild. If you can do that, then it doesn’t matter what your age or gender is.

Furthermore, the doubled tax can be considered to be the same thing as a reward-deposit back in Earth. As for the fee for the right to open a business, it changes depending on the size. Stalls go for 5 middle silver coins. Buying land like I did, will go for 2 small gold coins at the minimum. Then, how come I’m being charged 30 times that? Aren’t I being ripped off?

The fee for the right to own a business has a minimum fee, but there’s no maximum fee. If one were to pay a lot, then it will go to show that, that person has that much assets. And the accommodation and information that the merchant’s guild will give, will respond to that.

By the way, the price they used as reference was the price the owner of the bar who owned the place before me had been paying for a long time now.

After that, I finished all the procedures, gave my thanks to the three, and then left the guild. It would appear that in the near future, Serge-san will have to attend the meeting at the guild. In relation to that, the guild master and Pioro-san seemed to have something they wanted to talk about with Serge-san, so we separated there at the guild.

After I finish my job at the guild, I guess I’ll start constructing my store… this reminds me a bit of the part-time job I had in my previous life. I’m a little excited… Although the job was difficult, I think being able to see the result of your work easily is really fun.

Chapter 6

TL Note: So I heard you wanted a preview…How about a full chapter instead?

Hehe, so anyways here's the long awaited extra chapter. A huge thanks to Mee and Rakyu (Konami Asaba) as well as to the anons for donating and making this chapter possible.

Also I'm not sure whether that girl talking right underneath Miya is Mizelia or Wereanna. She's not doing any of Wereanna's pattern (アタイ, カイ, もん... those kind of stuff), so I just wrote it there as Mizelia since that's the only other female in their group that speaks colloquial.

Day 5 of the Monster Subjugation.
Day 1 of the Construction.

As I was having my lunch break, Wereanna-san and the others came over. Behind them, were Asagi-san, Jeff-san, and Raypin-san. Everyone seemed to be covered in blood.

"Ryouma, please save me, nya…" [Miya]
"Can you get rid of all this blood with your cleaner slime? It's so stinky, I can't stand it." [Mizelia]
"Goblins? You did something showy again, huh?" [Ryouma]

As I said that, I ordered the cleaner slimes to clean all seven of them.

"Ah~ I'm finally clean… Ryouma-kun, your slimes are really convenient." [Mizelia]
"You've saved me –de gozaru. Leaving it like that would have made it really difficult to get lunch –de gozaru." [Asagi]
"Good grief, Jeff makes these things so complicated –de aru." [Raypin]
"Didn't I already apologize?" [Jeff]

I waited for them as they went to get some food. When they came back we chatted over lunch. Apparently they found a new goblin nest built by the remnants of the goblins we killed, and went to crush it. The nest was around the size that could be destroyed by seven people along with a few others.

Part of the reason why they were covered in blood was the goblin subjugation. But more than that, while they were dealing with the corpses, Jeff-san gathered the corpses by piercing a corpse, dragging it, and then throwing it over to one spot. It's great that he was able to quickly gather the corpses, but it just so happens that while they were planning to go back, that pile of corpses suddenly fell over, and came crashing at them.

Even though they had tried to dodge the falling corpses, they were unable to dodge the spurts of blood. Raypin-san in particular, who couldn't be said to have good motor reflexes, took a direct hit.

"It must have been rough…" [Ryouma]
"Seriously. If it wasn't for Ryouma, we would have eaten our lunch while we stank and continued our job like that." [Jeff]
"To be able to clean a goblin's filth this easily, that's really amazing." [Syria]
"Thank you very much." [Ryouma]

At that, I remembered that I haven't talked to them about the new events regarding the laundromat, so I decided to talk to them about it.

"By the way three days ago, I talked to you guys about a laundromat, right?" [Ryouma]
"I remember. What about it?" [Jeff]
"It's been decided that I'll be doing that from now on." [Ryouma]
"Seriously? From what time?" [Jeff]

“I haven’t made the preparations for the store yet, so it’ll still take some time. As for the price, it’s just as we’ve discussed before, it’ll be at 1 medium copper coin.” [Ryouma]

“Store? So you’re going to have a shop –de aru?” [Raypin]
“When I went over to the place of a merchant I knew, to look for some bags. We talked for a bit, and because he expects me to make a lot of profit from this business, he feared that a problem might come if I don’t register with the guild.

I had some reward for subjugating bandits in the past, so when I went to register at the guild, I used that to buy a plot of land. As for the employees, I can get them from the guild, but I’ve also been told by the merchant I’ve talked with, that he’ll be providing them for me. Like this, I’ll still be able to continue working as an adventurer.” [Ryouma]

“I see. I’m a bit surprised to know that you have a shop at that age, but when I try thinking about it, it seems obvious –de aru. Adventurers like us who know about Ryouma’s slime’s ability will undoubtedly come to make use of your services –de aru. Moreover, if word of it were to get out, there’s no way you’d be able to accommodate that many people without a store –de aru.” [Raypin]
“I don’t think anything is impossible, but even so, you’ll definitely find less time to work as an adventurer.” [Syria]
“I was really surprised to see it become far bigger than I’d expected, but it would be nice if I could keep up my job as an adventurer. The store hasn’t opened yet, but please do make use of my services. There’s also a discount for those that come in groups.” [Ryouma]
“Really? Then I wonder who I should invite…” [Mizelia]
“Ryouma-kun already looks like a merchant, nya.” [Miya]
“Because he’s always been talking politely, there’s nothing unusual at all about the way he talks –de gozaru.” [Asagi]

We chatted like that while we ate. After I finished my job in the afternoon, I went back to the town. Then, I paid Serge-san a visit and went over to check out the plot of land I’d bought.

“This will become Ryouma-sama’s.” [Serge]
“It really is big, huh?” [Ryouma]

What was in front of me was a two story building that has crumbled. The empty space was only slightly smaller than that of an elementary school’s baseball practice area. I guess it’s around 20m x 100m? If it’s just the size, then it should be even bigger than Serge’s store.

I thought it would be a bit narrower when I’d seen it from the map, but...

“I believe Ryouma-sama is already aware that there was a bar here before, but aside from that there was also an inn. The cause of the fire was apparently a customer’s carelessness.

They tried to split the land and sell it, but when the prospective buyers had thought of the cost of removing the debris, they all declined. Because of that, it wasn’t bought for a long time, and as time passed the state of the land became even worse, making it even less desirable to buy. This vicious cycle continued until Ryouma-sama finally purchased it.” [Serge]
“I see… is it really ok for me to do as I please with this?” [Ryouma]
“Yes. Please feel free to do as you wish, as long as it is within your premises. Are you going to start today?” [Serge]
“Thank you very much. I think I’ll start working on the weeds and the demolition a little bit now.” [Ryouma]

I took out the scavenger slimes from my Dimension Home, and had them eat the weeds. While they were doing that, I entered the building and put up a sound proof barrier. I then went up to the upper floor and started slowly destroying the roof. After that, I used the magic, ‘Break Rock’, on the stone walls on the side, turning it into soil

as I threw it out.

And then I used the wind magic, 'Wind Cutter' to cut the pillars and disassemble the building little by little. Because of the effects of the Lv. 3 skill, 'Architecture', I was able to know where I should do what, in order to demolish the building.

My 'Architecture' skills came about from my part-time job where I just did what I was told, but since coming here, even the knowledge regarding designs have been included. Because of that as long as the building is simple enough, if I put in effort I can demolish it.

The architecture skill is amazing. And as for magic? Super useful.

After around an hour, I managed to get rid of half of the weeds, as well as finish half of the demolition work. It's gotten quite late already, so I decided to go back home.

By the way, Serge-san had been watching me do my work intently right from the start. Seeing the pace at which I worked at, he was greatly shocked. Thanks to my slimes and my huge magic power, I was able to bulldoze my way through. Of course it'd be fast.

6th day of the Monster Subjugation.
2nd Day of the Construction.

The monster subjugation in the mine has finally ended today.

"A lot of things happened, but with this, the request has been completed." Said the guild master to everyone.

From here on, this will be under my management. I'll be very busy, but I have to do my best. At the very least, until I start leave on the other side, I need to patrol this place at least once a week.

As I was thinking that, the guild master called me.

"Ryouma, come with me for a bit." [Wogan]
"Yes." [Ryouma]
"Good job today. The corpses of the monsters are at the usual place. And also because you've completed this request, you are now officially an E Rank… Lastly, from what I've heard from the butler of the duke, you're going to be managing this mine, right?' [Wogan]
"Yes, that's correct." [Ryouma]
"If it's you, then I think it'll be fine, but be careful. If you can't do something by yourself, say it. That report is also a part of your job after all." [Wogan]
"Got it." [Ryouma]
"Still, to actually refuse the duke's support and become independent, you sure make some crazy decisions, huh?" [Wogan]
"I realized that I've been depending on others a bit too much, so I thought I should try focusing my mind." [Ryouma]

"You're a brat you know? Don't push yourself. Also, I heard that you're apparently starting up a laundromat with your cleaner slimes… is that for real?" [Wogan]
"It's true, but how did you find out about it?" [Ryouma]
"It's become quite a famous rumor amongst the adventurers here who took the subjugation request. They know about your cleaner slime, so they seem to be waiting for the store to open." [Guild Master]
"I see, then in that case I'll have to hurry up with the construction. It's being built with my magic, so please just wait a little bit more." [Ryouma]

“I can also use your services, right? In that case, I want to know what the price will be.” [Wogan]
“Of course, anyone can use it. The price is 1 medium copper coin per bag. And then, there are two options targeted at groups of people. Those options provide a discount.” [Ryouma]
“Oh? Then putting it bluntly, if I were to gather my staff, how much of a benefit will those options be?” [Wogan]
“Comparing the payment one would pay in a week for the individual course to the biggest course, the price one would pay per person will go down by around 20%.” [Ryouma]
“It’s that cheap?” [Wogan]
“Yes. Since to begin with I thought of this as a way to make some extra coins, at least enough to live on, during my spare time as an adventurer. Because of that I’m selling my services at a low price. Also, the discount isn’t limited to first timers. As long as one takes the course, then one will get the discount as many times as they use it.” [Ryouma]
“Then in that case, I guess I’ll have to call a bunch of people over, huh?” [Wogan]
“Thank you for your consideration.” [Ryouma]

After we finished talking, I went back to the town and continued disassembling the building. Because I was able to get more time today compared to yesterday, I was able to completely finish the building’s disassembly and the weed’s removal. After that I looked over the direction of the street and noticed that several kids were surrounding me from a distance. I ended up going nuts over my work again, so I didn’t realize them at all.

Trying not to scare them, I walked towards them, and then spoke up.

“You need something?” [Ryouma]

Within that group of kids, a remarkably young boy replied.

“You’re not from around here, right? Who are you!?” [Boy]

Because of those belligerent words, the young girl beside the boy scolded him and the boy who seemed to be the oldest among them apologized.

“Rick! That’s rude!” [Girl]
“Sorry all of the sudden. Rick is a bit of a rascal you see. Also, sorry for getting in the way of your work.” [Oldest looking boy]
“Not at all. Actually, I hadn’t notice you guys at all because I was too caught up in my work. And I’m almost about to finish, so it’s not a problem.” [Ryouma]
“Really? Thank you. You’re quite amazing, huh? Even though you don’t look that much older than me, you can actually use magic to that extent.” [Oldest looking boy]
“Onii-chan, magician?” [Child]
“Adventurer?” [Child]

The children around me bombarded me with questions. As I was about to answer them while I was panicking, a woman’s voice flew over.

“Calm down for a moment! If you all ask at the same time like that, that kid won’t be able to answer!” [Woman]

Facing towards the direction of that voice, what stood there was a woman with a good physique.

“Sorry about that. My kids and the kids in the neighborhood bothered you.” [Woman]
“Oh, there’s no such thing, please don’t worry. And also, thank you very much.” [Ryouma]
“Oh? You’re quite polite for your age. Are you an adventurer?” [Woman]
“Yes, I’ve just registered some few days ago.” [Ryouma]
“I see, do your best, ok? Did you receive some sort of request today? It seems the rubble here has been cleaned out, but…” [Woman]

“No. I’m going to be opening a laundromat here to make money during my spare time as an adventurer, and so I came here today to build that store. Are you perhaps living near here?” [Ryouma]
“Yes. We’re all living in the residential area near here. Also, I work at a flower shop near here.” [Woman]
“I see. Then in that case I guess we’ll become neighbors. It’s a pleasure to meet you. In the future please feel free to call out to me.” [Ryouma]
“It’s fine it’s fine, no need to mind me. Rather than that, you said you were making a laundromat, right? If I were to pay, you’d wash my laundry?” [Woman]
“Yes.” [Ryouma]

I take out a bag that’s catered to individuals from my ‘Item Box’ and then begin explaining.

“This is a bag for home use. I will wash the clothes you put in this bag for 1 medium copper coin.”

As I said that, the woman appeared to show interest.

“This 1 bag for 1 piece of medium copper coin? That’s quite cheap.” [Woman]
“If you’d like, when the laundromat opens I can give you some service and wash one of these bags for free. Your neighbors as well.” [Ryouma]
“Really? Then, I guess I’ll try it out once. I’m Poline by the way. And this rascal of a boy is my son, Rick. While this tomboy over here is Reni.” [Woman]
“I’m Rick. I don’t mind making you my henchman.” [Younger looking boy]
“What stupid thing are you saying!? I’m sorry. My name is Reni, it’s nice to meet you.” [Young girl]
“And I’m Toll, nice to meet you.” [Older looking boy]
“I’m Ryouma Takebayashi, It’s a pleasure to meet you all.” [Ryouma]

After that we talked about the neighborhood around here. When we finished, I gave my thanks and then went back home.

At the lodging I began the design for my building. As I thought about it, I figured that making the entire land a store would be too big. So I decided to make half a store, a quarter of the land as lodging for the employees, and the remaining quarter as a backyard.

Well even though I say it’s a backyard, I’m not really going to do anything with it. At most I’ll just make some walls and get rid of the weeds.

Chapter 7

TL Note: Don't remember what I called it before. But the version of 'Identify' he uses will be called 'Identify Monster' from now on.

Oh and I mistranslated something in the last chapter. Poline wasn't going to stop by a flower shop, she is actually the florist. I'll update the previous chapter shortly after I post this chapter.

Day 3 of the Construction.

From what I'd thought up last night with my architecture skill, my store will be two stories high with a basement underneath. Since according to my architecture skill that's the limit.

Using my earth magic, 'Create Block, I dug a basement and made some rocks for construction at the same time. Afterwards I let the some slimes carry the rocks.

And then with my earth magic, 'Create Block' and an application of the architecture skill's knowledge, 'Pavement', I changed the surface of the earth into a strong foundation. It feels like I just pushed the earth together, creating an entirely flat surface of land without any cracked or hollowed parts. Anyway with this I've finished preparing the foundation.

Back on Earth, it was still necessary to arrange the bars in between the base concrete and the levelling concrete, but according to my architecture skill this world doesn't have that. Hmm… I wonder if it'll be alright.

…Well, it'll probably be fine. After all, the knowledge I have in construction just came from my part-time so it's shallow to begin with, and that kind of stuff doesn't seem to be present in the knowledge of this world. Anyways, for the meantime, it's good that I've finally managed to complete the foundation of the building. And also, the other buildings around here also use the same knowledge, so it'll probably be fine.

If I do something strange I'll just get attention, and if it's half-baked and something bad happens it'll be a problem, so let's just say that it's fine.

After that I used the rock I'd just made a while ago along with the sticky slime's hardening liquid to serve as replacement for cement. This part of the construction proceeded smoothly without magic.

Next, I used magic to create some stone pillars. I also used magic to create the basement and its walls, the floor of the first floor, and the part that will become the wall outside.

Magic is really useful. To actually manipulate lumber this much, and I hadn't even used one suit. I installed the walls and the stone pillars inside the box of stone and then reinforced it. It's simple, but I know that's its durable enough.

When I saw the pillars made of stone, for a moment I thought of turning it into a pillar like those in the old temples I'd seen in a text book once in my student days, but then I decided not to. There's no point even if I were to put something that pompous in the basement.

Lastly, I used 'Smooth Pavement' on the area that was going to be the stores interior. This magic is different from 'Pavement'. This is a magic that focuses on smoothness rather than durability. With this magic I can make the floor look as smooth as marble.

Anyway, it's late now and I've used up quite a bit of my magic power too, so I guess I'll end today here.

Day 4 of the Construction.

I divided the first floor with walls made out of rock and hardening liquid. After that I also went to make the second floor. I made it smooth just like I did yesterday. After this I went back home.

Day 5 of the Construction.

Today I'm going to make the ceiling and arrange the interiors. So I cut down a tree from near the mine and then shaped it with magic according to the knowledge from my woodworking skill.

I remove the water of the tree using alchemy little by little. Then using the wind magic, 'Wind Cutter', I imagine the chain saw back in Earth inside my head as I create a new kind of wind magic called, 'Circle Saw'. With that I cut off several planks of wood. After that I combined earth and wind magic to use the magic, 'Polish Wheel', and using that I made the surface of the planks pretty.

With 'Polish Wheel', I imagine 'Break Rock' making sand, and the wind magic, 'Circle Saw' rotating quickly on its surroundings. This magic can't cut things, it can only polish. There's sand inside the wind that is spinning very quickly, which will polish the surface its acting on.

Anyway, next, I dried the trees with alchemy. Unfortunately, though, because I took out all the water too quickly, there were many whose shapes have been warped. Well I'm not going to turn these things into pillars anyways, so I guess it'll be fine.

After I managed to turn them into lumbers, I ended the day.

Day 6 of the Construction.

I made some shelves and counters with the lumber I made yesterday. Then I used the sticky liquid to varnish it, and then I dried it.

I also stuck some planks to the walls with the sticky liquid.

While a building made out of stone is fine. For a store, the kind of feeling a building like that exudes is just too heavy.

Along with sticking some planks to the walls, I also used earth magic to modify the affixed planks. Like this I was able to make the interior feel like it's made out of wood.

It was around this time that I suddenly noticed the cleaner slimes acting strange.

Eh, it's eating the trash and the wood cuts from the construction? Although they eat filth, they've never eaten trash by themselves… scavenger slimes have, but… huh? Isn't it eating right now? Wait, it's eating it, then throwing it over to one place… wait a moment, it's cleaning!

As I quickly used 'Identify Monster' on the cleaner slimes I noticed that it had a new skill called, 'Cleaning Duty'. There was actually this kind of skill? Or rather, slimes were able to learn skills? To think I that would find out just now. Oh wait, there were slimes that learned how to use staff techniques, right?

Ah, whatever. I don't really have any problems with it.

After that, whenever I ran out of planks I cut them, and then left the size and shape up to the acid slimes. Because of this the pace sped up again.

Looking at the lumbers the acid slimes had made, I felt like they did a good job.

Day 7 of the Construction.

I arranged the part of the interior that can be seen by the customers. Then after that was the exterior. The exterior is exactly the same color as the color of a hardened block of soil. Although there's nothing particularly wrong with it, when it comes to business I kind of want to change it.

A laundromat, in other words a store that does laundry, when I imagine that kind of store what comes to my mind is a white store. I want to paint the outer walls white. I can't do anything about this with earth magic, so I went over to Serge-san's place to ask.

"You want the walls painted white?" [Serge]
"Is it not possible?" [Ryouma]
"It's possible, only, it's not a color that gets used a lot by stores. White stones are expensive, and it's easy to get dirty, so it's mostly used in the nobles' mansions." [Serge]
"That's true… but thinking about the current color of the walls, I think white looks cleaner compared to the color of the soil." [Ryouma]
"I agree with you on that point. However, because there aren't really plenty of demand for it, there's not much in stock." [Serge]
"I see…" [Ryouma]

I wonder if white is impossible… wait a moment… isn't this town a mining town with a mine?

"Serge-san, does this mining town also have a place that deals with iron?" [Ryouma]
"There is, however, what are you planning to do with it?" [Serge]
"If there is, then they must use quicklime in their manufacturing process, right?" [Ryouma]
"As expected of Ryouma-sama, you're well informed. They are using the quicklime to remove the impurities from the iron." [Serge]
"Would it be possible to acquire some of that quicklime? If possible, cheaply." [Ryouma]
"Yes, it's possible. Since it isn't expensive to begin with, and my store actually deals with quicklime." [Serge]
"I see, that's good to hear. If I were to harden quicklime with my earth magic, I might be able to make white stone cheaply." [Ryouma]

There won't be any problems with the color if it's quicklime. It's also used in Japan as ingredient for mortar, so there shouldn't be any problems with using it. While it's unfortunate that I don't have any knowledge regarding how to make mortar, it's good enough that I can turn it into a block with my earth magic. After that if I were to varnish it with the sticky slime's sticky liquid, it should become quite easy to clean.

It seems Serge-san didn't think of this.

After that I received the quicklime from Serge-san. As I tried out my idea, it turned out that just as I had predicted it was possible to turn the quicklime into a building stone with 'Create Block'.

Serge-san showed a little interest when he realized he could get white stones at a low price and bought what he could as he quickly took his leave. He's a nice guy, but right now I want to focus on building my store.

Today, I ended up buying a huge bulk of quicklime from Serge-san.

When I got back to the store, I was just about to stick the white stones on the wall when I suddenly thought of something.

I took out one normal building block and lightly spread on it the sticky slime's sticky liquid. And then on top of that, I used the magic, 'Smooth Pavement', on the quicklime. As I did so, as if it was wrapping itself around it, the normal building block became a smooth white building block.

Quicklime coating success!

Right after that I quickly mobilized my sticky slimes and had them creep the walls to cover it in sticky liquid. And with my 'Smooth Pavement' I was able to coat the outer walls white.

I was able to finish it way easier this way than by making blocks, but because of that I ended up not using most of the quicklime. Because I had a surplus of quicklime, I decided to stop coating the outer walls with the sticky liquid.

Since it would be hard on the slimes if I were to do the whole thing one more time, and since it also won't take that much effort, then I guess it'll be fine to just recoat the wall when it gets too dirty.

Like this I put away the large excess of quicklime inside my Dimension Home.

The pace was ridiculously fast and the store's been mostly made now… only, now that the store has been made, it's kind of lonely to just leave the surrounding land bare. I want to plant some plants on the lawn, but… oh yeah, why don't I go ask my neighbor with a flower shop? I might be able to buy something. If I do buy, I should take care of it with my wood magic.

As soon as I got to the store, a voice called out to me.

"Welcome–! Ah, Ryouma!" [Reni]
"Good morning, ...Reni-san." [Ryouma]

I almost forgot her name.

"You don't need to attach a san. Besides I'm also younger, so just call me Reni. Well, what're you here for?" [Reni]
"Then, Reni, I want to buy some seeds to plant in my lawn." [Ryouma]
"Alright, we have several kinds. Just wat a moment. Mooooom!" [Reni]

As Reni went inside the store, she called out in a loud voice. Poline-san was talking by the counter with two other women when she heard that loud voice.

"What's all the ruckus for? It's immodest you know?" [Poline]
"It's because mom's too caught up chatting! But forget that, we have a customer!" [Reni]
"Oh? Well if it isn't Ryouma. Did you come to buy something?" [Poline]
"Oh, so that kid's Ryouma?" [Woman 1]
"Even though he's this small, amazing, huh?" [Woman 2]

For some reason even the women Poline-san was chatting with, came over. For the meantime let's greet them.

"Hello, my name is Ryouma Takebayashi." [Ryouma]
"Oh? You really are polite. I'd also like my kids to learn that. I'm Chiara by the way." [Chiara]
"I'm Mary. It's nice to meet you. Also, I've been hearing rumors of you." [Mary]

“Rumors?” [Ryouma]

Eh? What kind of rumors?

“You’ve always been building a store around here, right? Well it turned out to be better than expected, so it got spread around that you’re an amazing magician.” [Poline]
“I’m not amazing, you know? I’ve always been using magic that could be used in day-to-day life, so this kind of job is my specialty.” [Ryouma]
“To be able to make something that robust, that’s plenty amazing. There’s also the rumor that you have a lot of slimes with you.” [Poline]
“Oh that one’s true.” [Ryouma]
“We know. After all we saw it with our own eyes.” [Chiara]
“We saw a lot of slimes carrying the stones Ryouma-kun was using.” [Mary]
“Oh, so you saw that.” [Ryouma]

“It was my first time seeing slimes move like that. They just kept coming.” [Chiara]
“There’re plenty of slave magic users other than you, but I’ve never seen any slave monsters like yours. By the way you said that you wanted to buy something, right? What do you want to buy?’ [Poline]
“I want something I can plant in my lawn. Do you have any?” [Ryouma]
“We do. The price will depend on what kind you buy. If it’s for your lawn, a bag will cost you 130 suits. How much do you need?” [Poline]
“I would like to purchase enough to cover the land around the store I’d just built.” [Ryouma]

As I was trying to think of how much I actually needed, Poline-san offered to help me.

“Mind showing me the store? I’ll give you advice.” [Poline]
“Oh, thank you very much.” [Ryouma]

As I said that, I brought Poline-san over. Reni, Chiara-san, and Mary-san also came.

And then when the four saw my store, they stopped in their tracks and closely stared at it.

“Is something the matter?” [Ryouma]
“I was just a little bit surprised. This morning, the store had a different color, right?” [Poline]
“When we came around before it still had the color of the soil.” [Mary]

Ahh, so that’s why.

“Just a while ago I painted it with magic. It’s a laundromat after all, so I thought its color didn’t feel ‘clean’ enough. So I bought some quicklime and with earth magic painted it.” [Ryouma]
“Haa~ you’re really skilled.” [Poline]
“Certainly, this way is prettier.” [Mary]
“You’re opening a laundromat, right? I wonder if I should also try it out. After all if I could save time on washing clothes, then I could have more time doing the chores.” [Chiara]
“By all means, please do come. Since we’ve just gotten to know each other, I’ll offer to let you use the laundry free of charge, once.” [Ryouma]

As I said that, I took out 2 bags from the item box and distributed it to them. After all, making use of opportunities like this to get customers is a must.

After that I got from Poline-san the seeds I needed. 15 bags of seeds for the lawn, and 2 bags of flower seeds.

I’ll sow these tomorrow.

Speaking of which, I feel like I've heard from someone before that it's possible to advertise on the bulletin board of the guild…

I also need to get the scavenger slimes make me some fertilizer… so I guess I'll go to the guild tomorrow.

Since that's the case I'll have to go home quickly and think of an advertisement…

Chapter 8

TL Note: Remember, Ryouma's last name, Takebayashi (竹林), can mean bamboo forest.

I went back to the town and decided on the contents of the advertisement. However, there was one thing I couldn't quite make up my mind on, the name of the store. For some reason the only thing I'm able to come up with are simple stuff…

"Umumumumumu…"

While I was being troubled, Sebasu-san came.

"Ryouma-sama have you come back?" [Sebasu]
"Yes, I'm here." [Ryouma]

While I was saying that I opened the door.

"Ryouma-sama, the Ojousama would like to know if you'd like to have tea with them." [Sebasu]
"Alright. I'm not really making any progress now anyway, so I guess I'll gratefully accept that offer." [Ryouma]

As I said that, I went to where Elia and the others were.

"We've been waiting, Ryouma-san." [Elia]
"Come, sit, sit." [Madam]
"Thank you very much." [Ryouma]

As the teas were distributed, I took a sip. Then Rheinhart-san asked me.

"Looks like you've been working hard. Aren't you overworking yourself?" [Rheinhart]
"A little." [Ryouma]
"I heard you were making a store. How is it?" [Madam]
"The store's been mostly completed already. Tomorrow I plan to plant some flower seeds for the lawn and raise it with my wood magic. And then after that, all that's left is the store's signboard and the 'Open' sign." [Ryouma]
"Ehh!? You've already finished that much!?" [Madam]
"Ryouma-kun, aren't you pushing yourself too much after all?" [Rheinhart]
"Not at all." [Ryouma]
"I heard that Ryouma-sama made the building with earth magic, but I wonder how much magic you've been using every day?" [Sebasu]
"I stop using magic just a little before the symptoms of magic exhaustion show up. And as for manual labor, I just do what I can." [Ryouma]

When everyone heard those words, they all sighed.

"Ryouma-kun, that's exactly what we call working too hard…" [Rheinhart]
"Ryouma-sama's magic power is right next to Elia-sama's. For someone who possesses that much magic power to use magic just a little before the symptoms of magic exhaustion show up, would mean that Ryouma-sama is in fact pushing himself too hard. That amount of magic power is equivalent to at least 40 people exhausting their magic. For that amount of work to be carried by one person, it's definitely too much." [Sebasu]

Oh yeah, my magic power is abnormally large.

“You’re making a face saying you just realized it now.” [Rheinbach]
“Now I’m worried. Is it really ok for you to work by yourself?” [Madam]
“It’s fine. Something like this can’t be compared at all to the work I did in my previous job.” [Ryouma]
“Previous job? Did you do some kind of work before?” [Elia]
“Eh?” [Ryouma]

Oops! I accidentally said it, but even if I tell them now that I worked as a programmer they wouldn’t understand, right? ...I guess I’ll tell them about my part-time job.

“I did quite a few things… like carrying stuff, or making dolls…” [Ryouma]
“Ryouma-san, you don’t think working is difficult?’ [Elia]
“There were also times where I thought it was difficult… but if I don’t work I won’t be able to live. And also, it’s not like everything is painful. When I said I carried stuff, it was actually the raw materials in a construction site. And though it’s tough work, I think it’s interesting to see the building slowly being constructed. There’s also that feeling of achieving something whenever something was completed. And as for my work involving dolls, all I did was color the parts in the color that I was told to, but even then, whenever we were able to complete one I felt happy.” [Ryouma]
“I see. In the future I’d also like to do that kind of work.” [Elia]

Eh? Elia is going to work? Even though she’s the daughter of a duke?

As I was thinking that, Elia said something unthinkable.

“Oh right! Ryouma-san, since I want to see you making a doll anyway. How about making me one?” [Elia]
“Eh? Ah, umm, that’s…” [Ryouma]

Not good!! I made some for my hobbies and sometimes for profit, but this is really bad for all sorts of reasons! While it’s true I accepted any requests and made a bunch of dolls, there’s no way these people will understand. Besides there are things that shouldn’t be shown to a young girl like Elia…

“Is something the matter?” [Elia]
“All I did was paint dolls, so making the doll itself is a bit…” [Ryouma]

Please give up with this!!

“But isn’t Ryouma-san really good with earth magic? In that case, why don’t you just make the doll’s body with earth magic?” [Elia]

… All of the sudden earth magic doesn’t seem all that convenient…

I guess it can’t be helped. Let’s try to make something that won’t offend anyone.

“I understand. I’ll make it next time.” [Ryouma]
“Really!? Thank you so much” [Elia]
“Sebasu-san, where could I purchase art materials?” [Ryouma]
“If Ryouma-sama is in need, then I’ll have it prepared tomorrow.” [Sebasu]
“Thank you very much. I also want to use it for my shop’s signboard, so please provide plenty of paint. Of course, I’ll pay.” [Ryouma]
“Understood.” [Sebasu]

After that we spent the rest of the time together chatting, then I went back to my room. They reminded me again not to overwork myself so I guess I have to be careful.

Speaking of which, what should I do about the store's name? I should probably make it simple, huh?

Laundry Agency Bamboo Forest
Clean a goblin's filth, cheap and easy!

… yeah, let's go with this.

Day 8 of the Construction.

I thanked Sebasu-san as I got the materials I asked for, then I went to the guild.

When I entered the guild, the receptionist, Meilin-san, called out to me.

"Oh! Ryouma-kun, how are you? I was quite worried, you know? You didn't drop by the guild at all after the subjugation request finished." [Meilin]
"Sorry about that. I was really busy." [Ryouma]
"You're making a store, right? I heard from the guild master. That's really amazing for someone of your age." [Meilin]
"Thank you very much. By the way, there was something I wanted to ask regarding that." [Ryouma]
"What is it? [Meilin]
"I heard it was possible to advertise somewhere in the bulletin board of the guild. Is it true?" [Ryouma]
"Advertise? There's no such service in the guild. Most likely what you heard was, 'that'." [Meilin]

As Meilin-san said that, she pointed her finger over to a corner of the guild where a small bulletin board stood.

"It's a bulletin board for recruiting parties. Whenever you need a party, you can write about yourself and the kind of people you need there. As for a bulletin board that advertises stores, we don't have any." [Meilin]
"I see, thank you very much." [Ryouma]

Since things turned out this way, does that mean I don't have any choice but to laboriously advertise by word of mouth? I can't distribute leaflets either…

While paper is cheap enough in this world to be used daily, there's still a problem with producing lots of it, so if I were to use up a huge amount of it, it won't be cheap.

Toilet papers are an exception though. In the past there was a man (most likely an other-worlder) who created a magic tool that creates toilet paper and tooth brushes, which spread throughout the world.

But I digress… going back to the topic.

"Oh, right. Can you go over to the guild master? He told me to tell you to go there the next time you dropped by, you see." [Meilin]
"Alright. I'll go the guild master now then." [Ryouma]

When I got to the guild master's room, he welcomed me with a smile.

"Ryouma! You finally came!" [Wogan]
"I've been devoting myself to the store, still, it's only been a week, you know?" [Ryouma]
"Right. I'm sorry for the short notice, but mind taking care of the cleaning job for the latrine pits again?" [Wogan]

“What’s wrong?” [Ryouma]
“I talked to you about it before, right? About those guys who start complaining early. The thing is, in only one week those guys came and started complaining again. Do you still remember the Fang of Orbtem? I made those guys clean as much as the penal regulations would allow, but as soon as the subjugation request ended, those annoying guys came and started complaining saying it’s no good.
A week passed and their grumbling just got worse. Looks like the five months before you came here was really tough. Having had enough of that experience, they came here desperately complaining that they want the latrine pits so clean that there’s no smell.” [Wogan]

Uwaah… did I make it too clean? Maybe I did, and because of that their living environment leveled up. And now they don’t want to go back to the way it was before anymore. Then again… they did suffer for 5 months…

“Well, it’s not like I don’t understand. After all, that smell really was horrible. I understand, I’ll set off immediately.” [Ryouma]
“I’m counting on you.” [Wogan]

I was planning to take the job from the start anyway, so I accepted it, and then quickly cleaned up the latrine pits.

After I finished cleaning it, I reported to the guild, got my recompense, and headed back to the store.

I then ordered the scavenger slimes to use, ‘Return Nutrients’, making it spit out the nutrients it got from what it’s eaten in the form of fertilizer. I mixed it with the soil around the store, planted the flowers in the lawn, and after watering the soil, I went back to my lodging.

I’ll raise it tomorrow.

Day 9 of the Construction.

I go to the store in the morning, and water the soil with my water magic, ‘Water’. Then afterwards I use the wood magic, ‘Grow’, on the seeds I’d planted yesterday, to make them grow faster. 3 hours after I started using the magic, the area surrounding the store blossomed into a fresh and green lawn, finally allowing the store to have that lively feeling I wanted it to have.

Though this magic is quite useful, it takes quite a bit of concentration to use. Moreover, if the nutrients and moisture of the soil is insufficient, then the practitioner will have to make up for that with his magic power, increasing the magic cost. Naturally, by using this magic to speed up the growth of the seed, the soil’s nutrients will be used up faster. In the end, without being able to make the seeds grow up, the practitioner is left with no choice but to wait some time for the seeds to grow. It’s really not easy to use. If it wasn’t for my scavenger slimes, there’s no way I would’ve been able to turn this wide of an area into a fresh and green lawn.

After that I cut the part of the lawn that grew too much with the wind magic, ‘Circle Saw’. At the same time, I had the scavenger eat the cut parts. With this I’ve finished preparing the surroundings. All that’s left is for me to start working on the signboard.

So I take out a plank of wood, and coat it in white. On it I write, ‘Laundry Agency Bamboo Forest’. On its two sides I drew 竹林 (Takebayashi) and on its base, I drew the picture of a slime. Afterwards I dried the board and coated it with the waterproof treatment, giving it a polished exterior.

At the same time, I prepared the price list of the store, created various things for the store, and then ran some final checks to make sure everything’s good to go.

竹林 Laundry Agency Bamboo Forest 竹林

Hmm… everything's almost complete, but I think I should run some actual tests. How about calling Jeff-san and the others over? Right! Let's go with that and call over the people I know. Also I might as well include with that the celebration for completing the store.

Having made up my mind, I stopped by Serge-san's store before going home. He did prepare the essentials for starting the store.

"Welcome Ryouma-sama." [Serge]
"Good evening Serge-san. Going straight to the point, today I've finally completed the store." [Ryouma]
"Is that true!? That is really quite fast Ryouma-sama…" [Serge]
"Yes. I was told by the people I know at the adventurer's guild that they were anxiously waiting for it, so in these past week I've been doing my best building the store. Since the building's already been completed, I thought I'd gather the people I know for the store's debut and to test it out." [Ryouma]

"In other words, the last checks before opening the store for business, right?" [Serge]
"Exactly. I plan to open the store the day after that, and afterwards I thought of having a light meal while celebrating the opening of the store. If you don't mind, I'd also like for you to come, however, is your schedule free on that day?" [Ryouma]
"Thank you for inviting me. As for my schedule, I have something planned for tomorrow, but I don't have anything planned for the next two weeks starting the day after tomorrow. At that time, I'll be perfectly fine with whatever schedule is good for Ryouma-sama." [Serge]
"Thank you very much. I'll decide after speaking with my acquaintances." [Ryouma]

"Ryouma-sama, would it be alright if I were to bring two other people with me?" [Serge]
"Yes, there won't be any problems. By any chance are you referring to Pioro-san and the guild master?" [Ryouma]
"No, actually, I wanted to take two of my employees. Ryouma-sama is working as an adventurer, so I thought I'd introduce some people who can assist. And so, in order for them to get used to the work quickly, I thought it would be good to introduce them early." [Serge]
"Thank you for your kind efforts." [Ryouma]

Oh right… there was that thing, wasn't there? Where I decided I'd make a place for the employees to sleep in. Ah… I forgot about the things regarding the employees. As an adventurer I can't do everything by myself, so this is really quite important. I am really grateful for this.

After that I gave my thanks and then left the store. The next stop was the adventurer's guild, where I talked the same thing with Meilin-san and the guild master. Hearing about their schedule, they're apparently free 3 days from now. I also called over to Jeff-san's group and everyone that participated in that epidemic prevention operation, and it seems that they'll be coming too. I'll drop by again tomorrow.

After that I went to the merchant guild. As I was about to ask the receptionist to send a message to the guild master, I was instead brought into the reception room. It seems that this accommodation is the result of paying a

lot for the business rights.

“You came. It’s been a week since then. Is your work going well?” [Grisela]
“Yes, thanks to your help. In fact I’ve already finished the building.” [Ryouma]
“Oh? You’ve already finished it? Although it also depends on the quality of the building, still, you’re quite a good carpenter, huh?” [Grisela]
“I can’t build anything else aside from simple constructions you know?” [Ryouma]
“That’s more than enough. After all, there’s no one who’d ask for elaborate houses outside of nobles and eccentrics.” [Grisela]
“So that’s why.” [Ryouma]

“Did you come to report the completion of the store today?” [Grisela]
“Yes, but other than that, three days from now I’m going to test out the store by taking jobs from only the people I know. And then afterwards I thought to celebrate the completion of the store while having some snacks. I’ve been taken care of quite a bit by guild master, so if you wouldn’t mind.” [Ryouma]
“You’re inviting me?” [Grisela]
“I can’t prepare anything special, and there will be other people too, so if it’s alright with you.” [Ryouma]

“Hee hee hee, an easy going party is good, right? It’s happier that way. Because of my position, I haven’t been called into something like that for a while now. Even if I do get invited into a party that seems carefree, that’s only on the outside, and it’s actually really stiff. But since adventurers are going to be coming, it’s going to be a real carefree party, right?” [Grisela]
“Yes, besides I’m also bad with formal events. In those cases even people’s kindness are just to keep up appearances.” [Ryouma]
“Alright, I got it. 3 days, right?” [Grisela]
“Yes. That’s the plan. I still have to confirm it with the others, but once I’ve confirmed it, I’ll leave a message here at the guild. Also, could you tell me how to contact Pioro-san? I’d also like to invite him if he has the time.” [Ryouma]
“Pioro? If it’s three days from now, then he’ll be fine. That guy holds a different town, you see. But he’s staying here using tomorrow’s meeting as a pretext to come here and get a vacation. From tomorrow onwards he won’t have anything to do for a while. So I’ll just let Pioro know for you.” [Grisela]
“Thank you very much.” [Ryouma]

I give my thanks to the guild master, and then leave the merchant guild.

After that I went back to the lodging and then invited Elia and the others to the store’s preopening. When I did so, they were delighted and it was decided that all the four members of the duke’s household, along with Araune-san, Lilian-san, and Sebasu-san will be coming. Oh, and the four guards, Jill-san and the rest, will also be coming.

With this the people attending will be Elia’s 11 + adventurer guild’s 11 + merchant guild’s 5, totaling to 27 people. If you include me, then it’ll be 28. As for where we’ll be holding the celebration, I figured it would be fine if I used the employee’s lounge for that.

After that, I confirmed the schedule with the adventurers, and then contacted the rest.

Day 10

As I went to the guild to confirm, it’s been decided that everyone will be participating. The guild master and Meilin-san were a given, but as for the 9 it seems that they took tomorrow off and are also coming.

Hearing that, I left a message at Serge-san's store and the guild that the preopening will be in the morning the day after tomorrow, and the celebration will be the afternoon of that day.

After that, I ran some rounds in the mine, killed some monsters along the way, and then went back to the lodging. After I let Elia and the rest know about the plan 2 days from now, I retired to bed.

Chapter 9

TL Note: For those who don't know what okonomiyaki is. (it's in the chapter)

Today I went to buy a lot of ingredients. I bought vegetables and fruits from the grocery, beef from the butcher, and from a slightly high class store I bought pepper. Lastly, I went to the liquor store to buy alcohol.

Since it's a rare occasion, I thought I'd splurge a bit on the wine. I told the clerk that I had 3 small gold coins and would like to purchase enough wine for 30 people. Hearing that she recommend to me the wine called, Jamis Spring. 3 small gold coins of that would get me a barrel of it, enough for 1 or 2 drinks per person, so I decided to buy it just as she had recommended me to.

After that I went to the store and did the preparations that I could do for the meal tomorrow.

Tomorrow's menu includes salad, meat sauce spaghetti, and steak. And for dessert I'll be serving apple pie.

I was troubled over what to serve but since there was pasta and steak in this world, I went with that. It's better to choose something safe so as to not unnecessarily cause trouble for myself. Unfortunately though this kind of food doesn't really feel that suited to parties.

When I think of a party, what generally comes to my mind is pizza. But that food doesn't exist in this world. As for drinks, there is water and wine, along with 2 types of fruit juices that I prepared.

Alchemy was quite convenient for this. I pounded the noodles of the spaghetti, and used alchemy to remove its water, turning it into dried noodles quickly. With this I can store it and all I'll need to do tomorrow is to boil it. As for the juice I crushed the fruits, and then separated the juice from the dregs, making a 100% genuine fruit juice.

This is really convenient, but if I'm not careful, it might end badly for me. It's good that I can extract the water and quickly dehydrate things, but since the magic formation doesn't discriminate what's on top of it, if I were to accidentally put my hand on top, my hand will be mummified. During the time I lived in the forest, I would often turn the rabbit meat I caught into dried meat to preserve it. If I'm not careful I'll end up like that.

Going back to the topic.

I'm going to make a meat sauce, but I don't have any consommé. So instead of the consommé, I decided to use chicken and vegetable soup. Tomorrow I'll cut the meat I bought from the butcher today, then mix it and the tomato with this. Afterwards, I'll add the soup and splash some water.

Next, I made a refrigerator with a box, by coating it in the hardening liquid, and using anti-cold barrier along with ice magic on it. Then I place the food I prepared inside that.

The anti-cold barrier when used, will normally keep me from being attacked by the cold weather in my surroundings. However, when applied in a small space, it instead prevents the cold inside from going outside. Also, since I can use 'Identify' to check whether or not the food inside is spoiled or not, I can use this convenient refrigerator with a peace of mind.

I was quite surprised before when I used 'Identify' for the first time on this refrigerator. When I used 'Identify' it actually included a list of the things inside, the freshness of the objects, and even what was decaying. Perhaps it's not far off to say that this refrigerator is even more convenient than the ones back at earth.

When I finished preparing, it was already evening. If I were to go to the guild now it would be quite late, but then again it's still too early to go home…

Walking aimlessly around the town, I ended up passing by the church. Good timing. I haven't been able to pray recently, so I might as well take this opportunity to pray.

Thinking that, I went to the church. This time what greeted me wasn't the woman from before, but instead it was a young girl perhaps around the age of 10.

"Welcome. How may I help you?" [Girl]
"I've managed to make some time, so I thought I'd go offer my prayers." [Ryouma]
"Then in that case, this way please." [Girl]

The girl brought me over to a wide room with many chairs in front of the altar.

"Please take your time." [Girl]

Said the girl as she left the room. It seems I can use this room to pray as I wish.

When she left the room, I took a nearby chair and sat on it. Then I put my hands together and closed my eyes. For some reason it suddenly felt like something was coming loose. The next moment, I opened my eyes. But when I did so, what greeted me was that white room I'd seen twice before.

"Oh, you came again…" [Kufo]
"Yeah, looks like I ended up coming again." [Ryouma]

When I turned to face the voice that came at me from behind, I saw Kufo.

"Kufo, we meet again." [Ryouma]
"Well it hasn't really been that long though. It hasn't even been a month since we last met." [Kufo]
"Are Gayn and Rurutia out today?' [Ryouma]
"Yeah, they went out for a bit." [Kufo]
"So gods also go out?" [Ryouma]
"Yeah, although it's really rare," [Kufo]
"Where did they go off to?" [Ryouma]

The moment I said that, Kufo made a face that looked like he just made a blunder.

"Ah… umm…. Actually, they went to your previous world." [Kufo]
"To Earth!? Why? Are they going to call another person?" [Ryouma]
"Oh, no, no! They didn't go for that. This time they're…" [Kufo]

As Kufo was about to explain, he hesitated.

"This time what? You know if it's difficult to say, I won't insist." [Ryouma]
"Nah… if it's Ryouma, then I think it's fine. They went sightseeing." [Kufo]
"Huh?"[Ryouma]

Sightseeing?

"Rurutia went around in your world to treat herself to some desserts. And Gayn seems to have taken quite a liking to your idol groups in Japan." [Kufo]
"What's with that reason? Well, no… Actually it doesn't really matter, but can you really go to another world with that kind of reason?" [Ryouma]

"We gods generally don't interfere with each other's worlds. But in our case we've been bringing people over from Earth for a long time now… and besides, this world doesn't really have a lot of options for entertainment. Even the sweets Rurutia wants to eat are few here. Also in terms of taste, you can't even compare the sweets in this world to yours, right?" [Kufo]
"Well, that's true but…" [Ryouma]

"I also went around Earth before too, you know? As the god of life, I'm very much interested in organisms that are able to survive in harsh environments. So with that in mind I went to see the secluded regions of Earth. Like the Amazon, the Sahara Desert, the Atlantis, or even the deep sea…" [Kufo]
"Wait a moment, isn't one of those kind of out of place!?" [Ryouma]
"Keep this a secret from other humans, ok? Otherwise our dignity as gods will be tarnished." [Kufo]
"I won't do something like that. Besides, even if I did spread it around, no one will believe me anyway." [Ryouma]
"Well I guess that's true." [Kufo]

"Gayn's hobby aside, wouldn't it be better if you guys made the desserts Rurutia like popular? There's plenty of other worlders in this world, right?" [Ryouma]
"Well that's true, only, it's difficult to spread the recipe. It's hard to get a hold of sugar and spices. Not to mention it's also expensive. Also, you're aware that any food with plenty of spices is considered a luxury, right?" [Kufo]
"Well, yeah…" [Ryouma]

"The only exception to that is the royal family or the nobles who have several luxurious goods. To the masses though, those kind of ingredients are impossible. That's why even if other worlders try to make the dishes from earth, the people who are able to make it are limited. And in the end they won't be able to pass it on. Even if they do though, it will gradually be forgotten. For example, you've recently met a person that goes by the name of Pioro Saionji, right?" [Kufo]
"I thought of it when I first heard his last name, but as expected, he's the descendant of an other worlder, right?" [Ryouma]
"That's right. That guy's lineage comes from a guy who was born to a family with an okonomiyaki shop. And he even went to a culinary school in his student days.

When that guy came to this world he tried to make okonomiyaki, but unfortunately he couldn't make the sauce and couldn't get the seafood to make the dish. So he decided to go all over the world to gather the ingredients. Only, in order to travel and buy those ingredients he needed money. So he became a peddler and worked a cart along the way. Through that he was able to make a killing and in the end, he was able to make his okonomiyaki. However, it didn't spread.

After that, he used the connections and knowledge of food he gained in order to make his okonomiyaki, and started a firm that grew to play a leading role in handling food ingredients. That's where the current Saionji Firm came from.

Though in the end he was able to make his okonomiyaki, you could also say that the ingredients were so hard to get during the era he was born in that unless someone did what he did, it wouldn't have been possible to make it. Nowadays there's the Saionji Firm and other similar companies who imitated them, so it has become slightly easier to get the ingredients. Only slightly though…" [Kufo]

Something like that actually happened?

"That kind of thing isn't limited only to food. Like craft or technology for example. Well to begin with, the other-worlders aren't all as passionate as he is. And even when they are, there's still the question of knowledge and luck. Many have failed because they lacked one or the other. There were also things that were lost because of war or because of other adventurers." [Kufo]
"When you put it that way, I think I can understand. But what do you mean when you say that some of the other adventurers a better technique or something?" [Ryouma]

"Although I don't have any way to say it other than bad luck, in the past there was a med student who came to this world who spread his knowledge in the field of medicine. But right now, there aren't any traces of such

knowledge, right?" [Kufo]
"Ah, now that you mention it, yeah. And the guild master didn't seem to have any knowledge regarding epidemics either." [Ryouma]
"Actually, in the past there was a girl who came into this world. That girl said that she wanted to become a saint." [Kufo]
"Saint? You mean like that thing that seems to be a really high position in the church or something?" [Ryouma]

"Yes, that. A person who holds a mysterious skill and heals people, something like that. Anyway, when that girl came here, she made a fuss saying that she wanted to live like that. Oh, but she wasn't a bad girl or anything. Though she did give off that feeling that said, "I want to be spoiled!" her desire to save people was the real thing. That's why Rurutia, I, and Gayn, gave her our divine protection. She may not be able to resurrect the dead but with the ability we gave her, she was able to heal anyone no matter how injured they were and no matter what diseases they had. And as for her, herself, she was immune to poison, medicine, diseases and was immune from being physically hurt. She had a power to protect that couldn't' be bound by anyone. And because of that she lived her entire life as a saint, a holy woman. Only…" [Kufo]
"Only?" [Ryouma]

Did something happen?

"That girl was able to heal anything, but other people were only capable of normal healing magic, so they weren't able to heal diseases. The people who were infected with a disease that couldn't be healed by this world's medical knowledge died when they weren't able to be healed by her. Seeing that, she thought, "Wouldn't the number of people who die from such things increase after I die?" and so until the very end, she spent her whole life healing people with the power of god while she wished that she would be able to eradicate all sickness from this world." [Kufo]
"Eradicate all sickness? Is that possible?" [Ryouma]

"Normally you can't. But she is an other-worlder who had directly received our blessings. Moreover, because of all her achievements, she was able to gather the faith of many people. That faith acted as a boost and amplified her power. And on top of all of that, she herself literally exhausted everything she had for the sake of that wish. So much so that after she used her power, she lost her life. But it didn't end there. She gave up everything for the sake of that wish and in the process she even erased her own soul. Normally she should have entered the circle of transmigration right after she had died, but after exhausting her power so much, she vanished." [Kufo]
"Somehow, I feel like she's an amazing person…" [Ryouma]
"When that child first started, a lot of people came to be healed and she was actually quite troubled. But, having a sense of duty, and after several things happened, in the end she became a true saint.
It was because of her actions that for nearly 400 years almost no one caught any diseases. And it's because of that, that the knowledge regarding medicine, diseases, and prevention of it had all disappeared. As for healing magic, it was passed on since people still get wounded.
Nowadays though, because the effect of her power has disappeared, there are now people who are becoming sick. Unfortunately, the knowledge that was lost won't be coming back." [Kufo]
"I see…" [Ryouma]

Was a single human actually capable of something like that? She may have had a cheat ability… but still…

"Ah, speaking of which, as long as you're prepared to have your own soul extinguished, you can do the same thing." [Kufo]
"Eh, seriously!?" [Ryouma]
"The combination of god's power and the soul of man is quite powerful. It's also because of that, that it's possible to use the soul of people like you to take magic power from your world to our world.
And although I said that you could do the same thing. The most you'd be able to do is extinguish diseases for a few years at most. The reason she was able to remove disease for 400 years was because of the faith the people had in her, and because she specialized at healing. In your case though, on top of not having a specialization in healing, you also don't have any believers.

Ryouma-kun, you're individual abilities are weak compared to someone who specializes in one ability. To begin with, the path you chose wasn't to start off as a cheat but to grow by working hard and being creative. Because of that your growth has nearly no limits. Since your growing really quickly, then given time you might grow to become even stronger than someone who possess a special ability. And more than anything, watching you is interesting, so it's all good for us." [Kufo]
"In the end it's about that, huh?' [Ryouma]
"Well it can't be helped since here in the divine realm we don't have anything to do, so we're always bored." [Kufo]

After Kufo said that, all of the sudden everything started to glow. Ah, it's 'that'.

"We're out of time it seems." [Ryouma]
"Eh, already? Oh right! Since Gayn and Rurutia aren't here, only my power is being used to stop the time, so it's way shorter! Ryouma-kun!" [Kufo]
"What are you panicking for all of the sudden?" [Ryouma]

"Actually I called you here because I need to tell you something! And yet I wasted time chatting about pointless things! Anyway I'll just tell you the important stuff! When your body became younger it also influenced your mind! Because of that you've regressed a little bit to a child! This is the same for the other other-worlders! You not being able to control yourself or keep up your poker face is because of that! It's fine that you want to retrain yourself, but don't push yourself!" [Kufo]

As soon as Kufo said that, my field of vision was completely wrapped in light and when it faded, I was back there in the room the girl had brought me to.

What does he mean by my mind being influenced by my young body? I don't understand well… but isn't that something really important?

I think I can somewhat understand the regressing part though… my poker face was so good in my previous life that I would often get asked what I was thinking about. However, nowadays, what I'm thinking easily shows on my face. Just like how it was when I was a kid before… Still, I won't change my plans. Kufo went through all the trouble of letting me know, so I might as well make sure I set myself straight.

After thinking for a bit, I give my thanks to Kufo inside my mind, and after donating a little, I left the church.

When I left the church it was already dark, so I decided to go back to my lodging.

Tomorrow, everyone will be coming to the store.

So I'll sleep early today, then tomorrow, I'll do my best!

Chapter 10

TL ~~Note: Let's reverse Laundry Agency Bamboo Forest to Bamboo Forest Laundry Agency. The former just sounds so bad in my opinion.~~ Actually I think I'll just leave it like that for the store's title, and just change it when he's welcoming people. It rolls of better as Laundry Agency Bamboo Forest as a title for me, but in a conversation it just feels off... yeah, let's go with this.

(Note: Originally, this chapter was in 2 parts.)

First, thanks for all the support you guys gave me for my exam. I should have mentioned this in the first part, but things got really hectic this weekend. Because of that I also cut a chapter that I shouldn't have needed to cut. So yeah, that's the reason why this chapter is so short.

Oh, and for those who've never seen a conveyor sushi belt (kaitenzushi): Don't know if you guys noticed, but I actually just want to make y'all water. hehe...

Day 12.

Since morning, Ryouma had been strenuously working to prepare for the store and the party.

At a time right before noon, a carriage was heading towards Ryouma's store. Inside this carriage were five people.

They were the members of the merchant guild, Grisela, Pioro, and Serge. And along with this three members, Serge also brought his subordinates, Carm Norad and Karla Norad.

These two, Carm and Karla, are twins. Today, Serge brought them for the purpose of introducing them to Ryouma as his future assistants. But what Serge doesn't know is that these two are actually stressed out and anxious over what's to come.

Although these two twins are young, they've been picked up by Serge and have been serving him as his right-hand men for a long time.

This kind of people, who could be said to be experts, have been ordered to go to Ryouma's store to help him out as his assistants. But while it may be true that these two are happy that they are being trusted with work, at the same time they can't help but feel worried when the store that they have been told to go to is a laundromat whose future prospects for profit normally aren't bright. On top of that, they aren't being told to handle the store. They are being told to support the manager who happens to be an 11 year old kid.

When you think about it, it's only natural for an 11 year old kid to need assistance in managing a store. There's no way that an 11 year old could possibly handle a store by himself. The life of a merchant isn't that easy.

Actually, in order for Serge to get the trust of these two, he informed them of Ryouma's close relationship with the duke. But it was because of that, that these two misunderstood and has assumed that Ryouma opened the store as a noble child's toy.

Amongst the children of the nobles who received educations as nobles, there are some amongst them who consider the lives of the commoners to be easy and wish to imitate it. And then amongst those, there are those who are spoiled by their parents and are able to use money as if it were water and are able to use that money to play commoner.

Naturally the businesses of those pretend commoners see little success. Even if one were to provide them with an exceptional assistant the business will most likely fail. To begin with the gap between the sense of values of a noble and a commoner is simply too big a gap to bridge.

In such cases the one at the most disadvantage is the person in charge. If one listens to the advice of the children too much and the store gets shut down, the one to take responsibility is the person in charge. And in these cases there are those who have been made to pay reparations.

Although there are also cases where the parents of that child won't pursue the matter and ask for payment. The thing is even if you say that it was just a child's toy, the fact that a store handled by one was closed, will cause that person's reputation within the guild to plummet.

Alternatively, if one were to just ignore the children's opinion and go with whatever the person in charge wants. Even if the store were to flourish, there are cases where the parents would come and take the store away because the children's wishes weren't fulfilled. So with all this in mind, this kind of job is very difficult.

"We should almost be there, right?" [Pioro]
"Yeah. Just two more corners." [Serge]

Hearing the words of their superior, the two children couldn't help but think about how close they are to what might become their graveyards as merchants. Because of that their hearts sank and their countenance visibly darkened. They hung their heads down, and like that they continued to wait until the carriage stopped. But when Serge spoke up another time, they steeled their hearts and looked out the window. What they saw shocked them.

"I can see it! Over there!" [Serge]
"Ho Ho, not bad at all kid.." [Grisela]
"Wow! What a splendid store! He was actually able to make this in one week? Amazing~" [Pioro]
"Sister, this…" [One of the twins]
"Yeah…" [One of the twins]

What spread before their eyes may have simply been a white square building with some windows here and there, but the surroundings were covered by a bright green lush along with some flower beds here and there, giving off a strong sense of cleanliness. As the splendor of that scenery unwrapped itself before the eyes of the guild members, they couldn't help but leave their mouths agape. While Carm and Karla suddenly felt as if a ray of hope had just thrust itself into their dark and dreary future.

When they entered the store, the first thing that caught their eyes were the four statues of the gods on the shelf near the ceiling.The warm atmosphere the wooden interior exudes along with the simple but lovely reverse L shaped counter, complemented by other furniture, struck the five with admiration. But as Carm and Karla felt their future getting brighter, the next instant crushed their hopes.

"Welcome to the Bamboo Forest Laundry Agency!"

As soon as they had entered, Ryouma quickly came out from inside.

Carm and Karla's first impression of Ryouma was that of a normal kid with an honest and a decent face. Unfortunately, though this might be poorly put, Ryouma also looked like he had no ambition, and his docile impression wasn't the kind that suited merchants. If it was just one of the neighboring kids they wouldn't care, but as they thought that this kid was going to be their boss, they couldn't help but grimace in fear of their future troubles.

"Thank you for inviting me today, Ryouma. I'm really happy to have been invited." [Pioro]
"This store gives off such a good feeling, I guess we can expect much from you in the future." [Grisela]
"You've finally completed your store, congratulations." [Serge]
"Thank you very much. Speaking of which, these are…?" [Ryouma]

"Oh, right. I almost forgot, these are the two assistants I was planning to give to Ryouma-sama." [Serge]
"Carm Norad." [Carm]

“Karla Norad. It’s a pleasure to meet you, please take care of me and my younger brother.” [Karla]
“Thank you for your courtesy. My name is Ryouma Takebayashi. Please take care of me as well.” [Ryouma]

The two breathe a sigh of relief in their hearts as they noticed that Ryouma didn’t act haughtily. Unfortunately though, while it did not show on their faces, anxiety continued to stir within their hearts. But in the next instant they couldn’t help but let some of their anxiety show when Ryouma acted rather vaguely in response to Serge’s introduction.

“Even amongst my subordinates these two are quite exceptional. You could consider them my right hand men. I believe they will be able to serve Ryouma-sama well.” [Serge]
“Oh? They are Serge-san’s right hand men? That’s …” [Ryouma]

At that the two let it slip.

“Is there a problem?” [Carm & Karla]

At those twin’s words, Ryouma hurriedly rationalized.

“No, there are no problems. I was just quite surprised as I hadn’t expected Serge-san’s right hand men to be the ones coming as my assistant.” [Ryouma]

Having been convinced by Ryouma’s answer, at their last murmuring the twins asked another question.

“Is there anything inconvenient about us?” [Carm]
“If there’s anything, then please let us know. After all Ryouma-sama will be our superior from now on.” [Karla]
“While there are no problems in regards to the job. I believe you two are overqualified. Work in the shop isn’t difficult and because of that you two won’t have plenty of opportunities to use your abilities. If I may as to be so blunt, your abilities are wasted here, and so I believe it would be better for you two to work at a more suitable environment.” [Ryouma]

Actually all Ryouma was looking for was someone who would serve as a receptionist and another to carry the clothes. So when he saw Serge bring some exceptional merchants with him, he couldn’t help but think it to be a waste. But at the same time, because of what Ryouma said, the two couldn’t help but to feel down.

Although Ryouma said what he had said out of concern, if someone were to tell you that your abilities weren’t needed, it’s only natural for you to feel down, right?

Seeing the downtrodden look of the two, Grisela and Pioro asked Serge.

“Serge, did you properly explain to these two?” [Grisela]
“Aren’t these two misunderstanding something?” [Pioro]

Serge, having just realized, quickly went to the twins to explain. He then explained that Ryouma’s store isn’t a noble’s toy, and is in fact a business endeavor expected to make a huge profit. So much so that even the head of the merchant guild, Grisela, and the president of another large store, Pioro, were interested. As the twins came to understand the situation, they couldn’t help but shiver at the honor of working here and the amelioration it will bring to their future. As Serge-san finished explaining to them, they turned towards Ryouma, and with great vigor, apologized.

“Please excuse our previous behavior!” [Carm & Karla]
“Because of our inexperience we were unable to fully comprehend Ryouma-sama’s true motive.” [Karla]
“I'm truly sorry for my behavior until now.” [Carm]
“There’s no need to be like that, it’s not like you’ve done anything rude in particular. Besides I understand just how unusual it is for a child my age to hold a store. Also, I too know just how absurd the nobles’ children can be.”

[Ryouma]
“You two can stop now. If you guys apologize it will just trouble Ryouma instead. Ryouma really looks like he doesn’t mind so if you really feel sorry just work to the best of your abilities as an apology.” [Grisela]
“Understood!” [Carm & Karla]

When he saw that enthusiasm, Ryouma chuckled.

“But no matter how enthusiastic you are… just like I said a while ago it’s really not that big of a job, you know?” [Ryouma]
“A job to this extent will definitely make a lot!” [Karla]
“We can also take care of the account book and manage the expenses.” [Carm]

But even if they say that, to someone like Ryouma who knows a little of Japan’s ridiculous earning calls and accounting, such things didn’t seem complicated at all.

Moreover, though Ryouma’s store may have plenty of income, the only expenditures his store really has are the bags and daily necessities bought from Serge’s store. Compared to other stores, the accounting here is far simpler.

While he was thinking that, the surrounding were suddenly filled with chatter as 11 people entered the store from two different entrances. They were the members of the adventurer's guild.

“Ryouma! We’re here!” [Wogan]
“Welcome to the Bamboo Forest Laundry Agency!” [Ryouma]
“You did a pret–… Geh!? Why is there a shitty old hag here?” [Wogan]
“Who’s a shitty old hag? I may be an old hag, but I’m no shitty old hag! You’ve been a guild leader for so long, yet you’re still as bad mouthed as ever, Wogan.” [Grisela]
“How long do you plan to stay as a guild leader anyway? You’re such a stubborn old hag. Why are you even here?” [Wogan]
“Obviously because I was invited.” [Grisela]
“Seriously?” [Wogan]

As their face met, Wogan couldn’t help but flinch. After he was able to get himself together, he talked to Ryouma.

“Ah, whatever. Ryouma, how does this laundry agency of yours work?” [Wogan]
“Right, currently... Ah, since Carm-san and Karla-san are here as well, I guess I might as well take this opportunity to explain how things work. Then, please come with me. Serge-san and the others, as well.” [Ryouma]

As Ryouma opened a part of the counter, he urged the other five to enter. The five people agreed, and entered with Ryouma.

“First, the customers need to buy one of the bags specially tailored to them. Bags tailored for individuals go for 20 suits a bag. This bag will be used whenever the customer comes to the store, so after purchasing one of these bags once, there won’t be any need to buy again when that customer comes the second time.” [Ryouma]
“Then in that case I’ll take one. I should stuff this bag with my laundry, right?” [Wogan]
“Yes, also, since today is simply a rehearsal for the real thing, today’s request will be free of charge. The bag, as well. So please take it and come again.” [Ryouma]
“Thanks.” [Wogan]
“Next is Carm-san and Karla-san. When a customer comes and pays, please insert the plank corresponding to the price paid into this pole by the counter’s right side.”

Ryouma took out a variety of thin and assorted colored plates from the counter and showed it to them. At the same time he also showed them the pole near the counter where the plates fit and the plate holder.

“What is that?” [Carm]
“It’s a tool for calculating income. The price in this store has already been decided by the size of the bags, as opposed to the pricing of other stores which is always changing. Moreover there are no prices other than 1 medium copper coin, 1 medium copper coin and 8 small copper coins, and 4 medium copper coins.

For every piece of medium coper coin you receive, please place one black plate into the plate holder for the black plate. This plate holder has a gradation and can take up to a hundred. Whenever it reaches 100 plates, please write a 1 on the paper underneath the plate holder, and then please put all the plates back into the shelf below the counter. Once a day after starting work, you can calculate the income of the store with this.

For example, when you fill up the black plate holder 3 times, and then after having removed the plates inside 3 times. If inside the plate holder 42 still remained, then in that case the earnings for the individual option becomes 342 medium copper coins or 3420 suits.

Seven types have been prepared all in all including the 3 options with the differing bag sizes, the 3 differing laundry prices, and the full body wash service aimed at adventurer’s armors and weapons. So if you check the plates respectively after starting work and adding them, you can calculate the profits.” [Ryouma]

After Ryouma said that he went back to talking to Wogan, but Karla, Carm, Serge, Pioro, and Grisela were all rooted on the spot as they stared at that tool after hearing Ryouma’s explanation.

Ryouma made this tool after remembering how easy it was to calculate the profits at the conveyor belt sushi (Kaiten-zushi) he worked at in his previous life. In that sushi shop, they divided the prices with different colored plates. Then they calculated the prices based on how many plates of a color were there.

Although it was something Ryouma made on a whim, to this world it wasn’t a trifling matter.

The so called arithmetic of this world, despite only really involving the four basic operations, is something that many people are incapable of. People are able to deal with small numbers they use in their day-to-day lives, but when it comes to big numbers such as the tally of the day’s profits, then even merchants find themselves struggling with the calculation.

One reason behind this is the lack of cash registers and calculators. Because of that, there’s no other way to calculate other than to look at the accounting book, check the number of times something was sold, and then add them one by one. Naturally, this takes a lot of time.

However with the tool that Ryouma had just made, even without the discount, it’s possible to easily calculate the earnings for the day. You could say that to this world it’s an exceptional tool to save time.

The price Ryouma is asking for is already so cheap to the people of this world that no one would dare to ask for a discount. With a price like that, no one would complain. But even if there was, they would simply be turned down. Ryouma has no intents of entertaining any further discounts than what he’s already set.

But not only is Ryouma’s store cheap, but its speed at calculating compared to other stores is also overwhelmingly fast, allowing the transactions to end easily. When the five people noticed that, their eyes became sharp. But Ryouma didn’t notice that as he continued to indifferently talk.

“After receiving the payment, please take the bag with the laundry and attach this label, which has been prepared ahead of time and can be taken from the shelf below the counter, to the bag’s lace. When giving the bag to the customer, please confirm the labels to make sure that the label of the customer and the label of the laundry matches.” [Ryouma]

The two plates that Ryouma brought out to attach to the lace is what you’d call an identifier. By attaching this, the store can prevent people from mistakenly taking the wrong bag.

After Ryouma explained that to them, he took the baggage and tossed it into a disposable chute like hole installed on the wall behind the counter.

"The cleaner slimes I'd talked about before are in the next room. I've already ordered the cleaner slimes to immediately clean and carry to the next room whatever is thrown into the chute. Like this anything thrown into the chute will automatically be cleaned and then brought to the place designated for the laundries.

Afterwards, all that's left is picking it up, cross-checking the labels, and then giving it back to the customer. This is how the store will operate from now on. How is it? Are there any questions?" [Ryouma]
"No questions." [Carm & Karla]
"Then please divide the labor among yourselves, then try to serve the customers." [Ryouma]

As Ryouma said that, he also urged Carm and Karla to come to the counter. After which, they then took 10 people's laundries, tossed it into the cleaner slime room, retrieved it, then gave it back to the customers.

If it this was one of the laundromats in Earth, they'd also iron the clothes after washing, but the laundry agency that Ryouma built was made specifically only for cleaning.

All the cleaning were left up to the cleaner slimes. And the cleaner slimes would either go inside the bag or put everything including the bag inside their body, then wash it. Because of this, they were also able to prevent losing laundry. After all, without even taking out a single piece of clothing and finishing the laundry in just one room, it's only natural that nothing would go missing.

As for providing services other than cleaning, at most there's only folding the clothes in this world. If that kind of service is desired, then Ryouma could just have someone do it, or do it himself. Or alternatively, hire the people who do their laundries themselves and wouldn't use Ryouma's store.

"Looks like it's going fine. Do you have any questions?" [Ryouma]
"Has this really become clean?" [Carm]
"We're not really seeing the kind of results we'd heard from Serge-sama." [Karla]

Because the twins said that, Ryouma had them open the laundry bag they got from Jeff and had them use 'Identify' on it. Having understood that the clothes were clean, they felt admiration for the cleaner slime's ability. They had heard that the clothes from Jeff were covered in monster blood, so they were quite surprised when they found out there wasn't even a trace of it on the laundry.

After that, Ryouma distributed the bags targeted to individuals to the 11 for free as a service. And because Wogan announced that he will be taking the group laundry option with the staff, Ryouma passed them a giant bag that could take 35 people's worth of laundry along with 35 individual bags for free. When they saw that, they couldn't help but wonder why the individual bags were also given.

At that question Ryouma replied, "It's a hassle to have your clothes mix up with others', right? Moreover, I think that the female clients wouldn't want their clothes and underwear to be seen by others, especially by other men. So as a subdivision, I've also included the individual bags. Like this, the laundry won't be seen by the male staff." [Ryouma]

At those words, everyone agreed, especially the women. Hearing this, Meilin promised to recommend the store to the other female staff in the guild.

Actually, Wogan did mention about Ryouma's laundromat to the other female staff, but precisely because of the reason Ryouma had mentioned just now, they declined.

While they were talking like that, the household of the duke arrived. For even the duke's family, themselves, to come! Naturally, the people were in a slight uproar. And so, all 23 of them were brought into one of the rooms of the store.

Though this may be off topic, because Ryouma had no surviving relatives in his past life, he had no experience in these kinds of gatherings. Because of that, it was only when they came here that Ryouma noticed that he had just called the duke's family whose social position has no relation to his, for a private matter. Thereby perpetuating an unthinkable act, showing an obvious lack of common sense.

Normally, it shouldn't be possible to call the guild masters of the adventurer's guild and the merchant's guild. Ryouma planned this event with gratitude to his benefactors in mind, as well as his aspiration to have some sort of social disposition. But when he saw what was happening, he realized how hasty he was and decided that he will secretly reflect after this.

Chapter 11

TL Note: A slight reminder for those who've forgotten.

Wereanna – Dog Tribe
Miya – Cat Tribe
Syria – Rabbit Tribe
Mizelia – Tiger Tribe
Asagi – Dragon Newt

Jija = Ginger (in their world)

Also name change. Sorry about this, but when I looked at it again, I realized just how horrible it looked like in English. Aro-ne to Araune. (For those wondering a long dash in between words in Japanese, means a longer sound.)

These changes have been updated in previous chapters.

Ryouma brought everyone deep into the store.

"This area is specifically for employee use and customers are prohibited from entering. You can find the reception office, the office, the locker room, the employee lounge, and the toilet, here. There's also the office kitchenette which will allow the workers to be able to prepare things like tea." [Ryouma]
"Mind if we take a look?" [Wereanna]
"Please go ahead." [Ryouma]

When Ryouma saw everyone looking around, he was reminded of the tourist bus tours in his previous life.

After a while, Ryouma brought everyone to the employee lounge. Then he went off to the kitchen to prepare the food while everyone else waited in the employee lounge.

Having been made to wait by Ryouma. The people chatted idly to pass time while feeling a little nervous. However, after around 10 minutes had passed, all of the sudden Wereanna became fidgety.

"Hey, Wereanna. What's the matter?" [Jeff]
"Sorry, I'm just a bit bothered by something. Something from somewhere… smells really delicious. I think it's probably Ryouma's cooking." [Wereanna]

When the people in the room heard that, they all tried to smell it. But the only ones who were able to smell it aside from Wereanna, were the 3 other beastmen and the dragon newt, Asagi.

"Nya!? Now that you mention it, it really does smell delicious, nya!" [Miya]
"It's true…" [Syria]
"Really? I can't tell though." [Pioro]
"It's probably too thin for human noses to smell. So unless you're of a beastmen tribe, you probably won't be able to smell it." [Mizelia]
"No, I can also smell it –de gozaru. Is this meat? Or perhaps a fragrant bread? Well, whatever it is, it certainly smells delicious –de gozaru." [Asagi]
"Speaking of which, Ryouma-kun's cooking was really delicious." [Rheinhart]
"Is that true, Rheinhart-sama?" [Serge]
"Yes, even though he only used a few ingredients, it was something to be remembered. That rabbit meat sauté with the root of jija was so delicious." [Rheinhart]
"Despite being at that age, Ryouma-sama is already in possession of level 10 domestic chores. Thanks to that, I believe we can expect something good." [Sebasu]
"By that age, you mean 10 years old, right? He's really something. Regardless of how easy it is to level up that

skill, there really aren't many who can before the age of 40." [Wereanna]

After that, five more minutes passed, then Ryouma came back.

"Sorry for waiting. The meal has been prepared." [Ryouma]
"I've been waiting for this, nya!" [Miya]
"You're slow! You made it smell good and then even made us wait, don't you know how hard that is for us?" [Wereanna]
"Eh, you smelled it? But I put up an anti-odor barrier… did it get cancelled half way through?" [Ryouma]
"Who cares about that stuff? Hurry, give us some food." [Wereanna]
"Understood." [Ryouma]
"We'll help out." [Sebasu, Lilian, Araune]

Ryouma gave his thanks, and then took Sebasu, Lilian, and Araune to the kitchenette to carry the meals. As for the drinks, Ryouma ordered the slimes to carry them.

Seeing the slimes act like this, the five members of the merchant guild who didn't know about Ryouma's peculiar slimes were shocked. The others then explained to them to calm them down.

All the while, the food and the drinks were brought in one after another. And when the food had finally been distributed to everyone, Ryouma lead everyone to make a toast.

"Today I've called everyone here to celebrate the store's completion. Thank you for being with me here today. It's nothing special, but I've prepared for you all a hearty meal. Please, enjoy it to your heart's content. Cheers!" [Ryouma]
"Cheers!" [Everyone]

As everyone said 'cheers' out loud, they drank the wine inside their respective glasses. When they did so, Gordon suddenly cheered out loud.

"This wine… isn't this some high class stuff!?" [Gordon]
"It's for a celebration after all, so I decided to splurge a bit." [Ryouma]
"What kind of wine is this?" [Gordon]
"According to the shopkeeper of the wine store, it's called the Spring of Jamis." [Ryouma]

When Gordon heard that, he laughed as he looked at the glass in his hands.

"The Spring of Jamis!? I heard it was good, but I've never had the opportunity to drink it!" [Gordon]
"Really?" [Ryouma]
"You bought it without knowing? The spring of Jamis is well known amongst wine lovers." [Gordon]
"Oh, I didn't know that at all. I just bought it because the shopkeeper recommended it." [Ryouma]
"You're luck's really good. The Spring of Jamis may be cheap price-wise, but because a lot of aficionados want to get their hands on it, it gets sold out pretty quickly, making it hard to get one." [Gordon]
"I see, my luck, huh? …Ah!" [Ryouma]
"What's the matter?" [Gordon]
"No, I just realized the reason why I was able to get that wine." [Ryouma]
"The reason?" [Gordon]
"Yes. Most likely it's because I have the divine protection of the God of Wine, Tekun, that I was able to buy this wine." [Ryouma]
"What did you say!? Is that true!?" [Gordon]
"Boy, is that true!?" [Pioro]

When the people there heard that, Pioro and Gordon responded quite strongly.

"Y-yeah. It's true, is there something…?" [Ryouma]
"I'm envious…" [Gordon]
"I'm envious~, I'm so, so, sooooo envious~" [Pioro]
"Tekun-sama's divine protection is an enviable thing amongst dwarves. Especially the God of Wine's protection." [Gordon]
"Is it better to receive the God of Wine's divine protection, rather than the God of Craft's?" [Ryouma]
"Well that's because I'm an adventurer. Being an adventurer it's only natural for one's smithing to improve. Moreover, a guy who relies on a divine protection to make things is a failure as a blacksmith. One should train their own abilities with their own strength. But contrary to that, any dwarf would want to drink delicious wine. That's why every dwarf wants Tekun-sama's God of Wine protection. Having the opportunity to drink delicious wine isn't something you can help with your own efforts, but Tekun-sama's God of Wine divine protection can." [Gordon]

Hearing that, Ryouma understood. Afterwards, he asked Pioro.

"Alright, I think I can understand Gordon-san, but Pioro-san? Do you also like wine?" [Ryouma]
"While I don't hate wine, I'm more jealous as a merchant. I wasn't able to tell this to you before, but as a merchant I deal mostly with food commodities. Because of that, I'm envious that you can get good wine easily." [Pioro]
"So that's how it is." [Ryouma]

While we talked like that, Wereanna called out to me.

"Ryouma." [Wereanna]
"What is it?" [Ryouma]
"Seconds." [Wereanna]
"That's fast! You ate it all, already!?" [Ryouma]
"Ryouma, me too." [Jeff]
"Me too." [Hyuzu]
"Me too." [Wogan]
"Even Jeff-san, Hyuzu-san, and guild mas… Wogan-san? You all eat fast, huh?" [Ryouma]
"It's because Ryouma's cooking is so delicious. It's my first time eating something like this." [Wereanna]
"Really? Being told that make me somewhat happy for making it, but…" [Ryouma]
"I'm also of the same opinion as that child's. Ryouma, what do you call this pasta?" [Grisela]
"It's called Meat Sauce Spaghetti." [Ryouma]
"Meat Sauce Spaghetti, huh? It's delicious. Because of my age, my jaws have gotten weaker and I'm no longer able to bite meat well. So I've ended up unable to eat delicious food. But this spaghetti's meat is easy to eat as the meat of this steak is so soft. To be able to eat meat in a long while again, I'm really happy to have come here." [Grisela]
"I'm happy that you like it. Please eat as much as you want." [Ryouma]

As Ryouma said that, he prepared the second helping for three people. But just as he had come back with the three's second helping, Mizelia, Miya, Rheinhart, and Asagi all finished up theirs and asked for seconds.

"I've also prepared some desert, so please do leave some room for that." [Ryouma]

But even after saying that, they didn't stop at all and everyone asked for more than one refill. Wereanna and Jeff have even asked for seconds 4 times, causing Ryouma to tilt his head as he wondered where they put all that.

After the main meal, Ryouma brought out sliced apple pie, with some black tea to complement it. When they saw that, the people were speechless.

It's because this was something delicious made with the luxurious honey. This fact shocked everyone. And when they ate it, they were touched. Especially the women, who found themselves on cloud nine.

When the meal ended, Ryouma brought out another serving of black tea.

As they all took a short rest from the splendorous meal they'd just eaten, Miya said, "Fuha… I ate to my fill, nya. I'm so happy I came, nya." [Miya]
"I'm happy to see that you've enjoyed yourselves. Still you all ate quite a lot, huh? Especially, Jeff-san. Exactly where do you put all that?" [Ryouma]
"Huh? As long as I want to eat, I can eat. Because I have the 'Eat All You Can' skill." [Jeff]
"'Eat All You Can'?" [Ryouma]

"You don't know about it? Well it is an unusual skill. With the 'Eat All You Can' skill, the amount you can eat will increase greatly once. Because of that you'll be fine even if you don't eat anything for a few days after that. I have it because I used to be from the slums and when I became an adventurer and began to make some money, I mostly spent my money on food. Because of that I ended up acquiring the skill." [Jeff]
"Jeff used that ability along with the resistance skills he got from living in the slums, to take requests that would have been harsh to a normal adventurer, one after another. Because of that he ended famous, nya." [Miya]
"Jeff-san, you're amazing." [Ryouma]

"I just chose a bunch of profitable jobs. There's nothing amazing in particular about it. Besides, if you try, you can also do the things that I do, right? After all, you even have resistance skills that I don't have. If you want we can try taking on a request together. Although it's not really possible unless you raise your rank a little bit first." [Jeff]
"Then when that time comes, please take care of me." [Ryouma]
"I'd be grateful too, on behalf of the guild, if you were to take a job with Jeff. Jeff has resist skills, so while that's a good thing, it also means that he works at a different pace compared to others. Which is why he always works solo. But amongst the requests, there are also requests that you can't take alone. He hasn't been able to take those requests at all." [Wogan]
"Like what kind of request?" [Ryouma]

"For example, this may be a rank C mission, but in this request you have to dig out some flame crystals from a volcano. Unless you have the foul odor resistance skill, this mission is quite tough. You have to endure the long time it takes to go to and fro the mine, and the long hours of work. And then on top of all that, you still have to be exposed to the rotting egg like smell of the volcano. Moreover, there's also the light poison that's present in the entire volcano. Depending on the place, there are people who have died." [Wogan]
"By light poison… do you mean the kind which causes your eyes to swell and tear up, while in places where the exposure is strong, it causes one to have a harder time breathing?" [Ryouma]
"Yes, that, that. Seriously, you're really well informed, huh?" [Wogan]
"I've heard a little about it." [Ryouma]
"Well there's no harm in knowing, in fact, having that knowledge is quite advantageous to an adventurer. Do you know of a way to cope with it? Like an antidote for it or something?" [Wogan]

Even if he tells Ryouma that, because this world doesn't have any knowledge of such a medicine, and because it's not possible to create the medicine from Earth here, Ryouma wasn't able to give him anything.

"Unfortunately, I don't know of any medicine to deal with the poison in the volcano. What I do know is that the poison is from the volcano's smoke and from the air jetted out from underground. It may be possible to defend oneself from the poison as long as one covers his surrounding with wind magic." [Ryouma]
"Just knowing that is more than enough. Still, your grandma who taught you medicine and poison must have been an expert, huh? Even though I've been a guild master for a long time, you've been surprising me one after another when it comes to poison and diseases." [Wogan]

When Wogan said that, Ryouma was a little surprised. But he just laughed and agreed, as he let it pass. After that, Ryouma remembered something and went to talk to Carm and Karla.

“Right, Carm-san, Karla-san.” [Ryouma]
“What is it?” [Carm & Karla]
“I’m grateful that you’ve worked for me so much, but is it really ok? I’ve mentioned it before, but you won’t be able to show your abilities in a work place like this.” [Ryouma]
“Please allow us to work for you.” [Carm]
“It’s true that we won’t be able to put to use our haggling skills, and the accounting is also taken care of easily by the tool Ryouma-sama made. But even then we would still like to work here and learn from Ryouma-sama’s innovative business practices.” [Karla]

When they said that, Ryouma thought that they were really similar to Serge-san.

“I understand. It’s reassuring to have someone with plenty of experience work for me, so I have no problems with it. It’ll be a pleasure to work with you from now on.” [Ryouma]
“Please take care of us!” [Karla & Carm]

Replied the two with a smile that covered their entire face. And paying attention to that was Serge who seemed to be fully satisfied. While all that was taking place though, Wogan secretly asked Grisela something.

“Hey, shitty old hag.” [Wogan]
“What? Scatterbrain.” [Grisela]
“Is Ryouma’s store that profitable? I know it’s a strange store, but…” [Wogan]
“It is. Only, I don’t know to what extent.” [Grisela]

When Wogan heard that, he knit his eyebrows.

“Did the shitty old hag, give him advice?” [Wogan]
“I didn’t give him anything. That kid thought it all up by himself. Besides it’s not something a normal merchant could come up with, and it’s also not something realistic. That kid is smart, but he doesn’t have that certain inclination to money that every merchant should have. It’s probably because he’s a kid like that, that he was able to think this up. There’s no way a normal merchant would think up a method where he’d give a discount every day and go through all the trouble to reduce his own income himself.
But even if someone were to think of it. Because of the expenses in hiring employees and the results required of a shop like that, it wouldn’t go well. But that kid has those cleaner slimes of his. With that, there’s no reason for his store not to flourish. Really, that kid is quite something. But that aside, you too need to be careful. While I can provide protection for that kid as a merchant, I can’t protect him from greedy merchants who are indiscriminate in their ways and choose to use violence.” [Grisela]
“I know. Though, I do think that if it’s him, it won’t be needed.” [Wogan]
“What?” [Grisela]

“That guy, just a while ago, had a dispute with the members of the Fang of Orbtem.” [Wogan]
“If I’m not mistaken, that’s the adventurer group with 40 hoodlums.” [Grisela]
“Yeah, and during a request, they had a little dispute. What do you think happened?” [Wogan]
“It would have been great if he was able to beat them, but his opponents weren’t limited to just 2 or 3 people, you know? You wouldn’t actually say he beat up all 40 of them, would you?” [Grisela]
“Bingo.” [Wogan]
“… Are you serious?” [Grisela]
“Yeah, Ryouma took on 6 members plus the head, Sacchi, all by himself while his slimes took on 34 of the members. It was completely one sided. There’s no problem with Ryouma’s abilities. But on top of that, his slimes are numerous. And speaking of which, that guy’s slimes are quite dangerous, you know?” [Wogan]
“… But even then, be careful.” [Grisela]
“… I know that.” [Wogan]

Those two talked like that in a corner of the room without Ryouma noticing. During that time Ryouma fully enjoyed himself with the friends he didn’t have in his previous life.

When everyone was about to leave as the celebration came to a close, Ryouma was told not to push himself too hard.

After that, Ryouma cleaned up after the banquet, left the store, and then took one good look at the store he had just made. Then as he tasted an unspeakable sense of fulfillment that he didn't have in his previous life, he went back to his lodging.

Chapter 12

TL Note: Here's your extra chapter. A special thanks to the *anons*, as well as to *Tundy* for donating and making this chapter possible.

Name change: Lenny → Reni; apparently Lenny was too manly. Well it did remind of me that shark form sharktale so… I guess, yeah.

The Next Day.

~Side Ryouma~

I went to the store early in the morning today. Today will be the store's first day so I thought I'd get a head start. But more than that, it's also because Carm-san and Karla-san will also be coming.

After the gathering yesterday, Carm and Karla went, "We can even open the store for business tomorrow!" Or so the two twins vigorously pushed on to me. And so, I'm opening the store today… I wonder if it was too fast. I could have done things a bit more… nah, vigor is also important, right? I'm the kind who tends to drag things after all…

While I was thinking that, the twins came to the store.

"Good morning, boss!" [Carm & Karla]
"Good morning, Carm-san, Karla-san. Please take care of me from today on." [Ryouma]

After the twins came, we ran some checks and prepared the store for opening… or so I'd like to say, but really, all we did was allow the cleaner slimes to enter the room and prepare some small change. Speaking of which, the twins purchased and brought over a lot bags from Serge this morning. Apparently, before going home yesterday, they ordered some from Serge-san. They really helped me out there.

"Well then… I'll be going." [Ryouma]
"Take care." [Carm & Kyle]

I'm going to the adventurer's guild to do some jobs.

Since the first day, I've had a problem with leaving things to other people. But because I wasn't able to make an announcement because of the leaflets and the advertisements, I made the decision to make an announcement while taking a job from the guild. Serge-san really prepared some people who I can leave everything to… putting it bluntly, I wonder if that means I'm not needed anymore. Then again though, that's the reason why I hired them in the first place.

While I was thinking that, I went over to my neighbors before going to the guild. I need to let Poline-san know about the store's opening after all.

"Excuse me, is anyone here?" [Ryouma]

The store seems to be open, but there doesn't seem to be anyone inside. So I raised my voice, and Poline-san went out from one of the rooms inside.

"I'm coming, I'm coming. Oh! If it isn't Ryouma-kun. Did you drop by to buy some seeds again?" [Poline]
"Actually, I came today to let you know that my store, Laundry Agency Bamboo Forest, is open for business." [Ryouma]
"Oh my! It's already open? That's really quick." [Poline]

“Yes, thanks to everyone. Also I gave the bags for free some time ago, so by all means, please do try out my store’s services. And also please let Mary-san and Chiara-san know as well. I’ve already informed the two clerks.” [Ryouma]

“You hired some people?” [Poline]
“They were introduced to me by a merchant I knew. So I decided to leave things to them while I worked as an adventurer. Also, I need to pay their salaries with my income as an adventurer until the store gets going.” [Ryouma]

Even if you tell me that you don’t need to be paid as long as you’re able to work, it’s only natural that I’d feel guilty if I actually took that offer… But really, I honestly do not understand why they want to work for me that much.

In fact, rather than working at my place, I think working over at Serge-san’s would be far more beneficial… and the salary should also be bigger…. But, it does help me out a lot, so I guess I don’t really have any problems with it.

“Considering your store’s size, I guess it was needed, huh? In any case, do, do your best. After all, I’m supporting you. In fact, I’ll go there today myself to try out your store.” [Poline]
“Thank you very much. Then, I’ll be heading off to work.” [Ryouma]

As Ryouma said goodbye, he left the store and went to the guild. When he got there, someone immediately called out to him.

“Ryouma, will your laundromat be opening soon?” [Adventurer]
“When will it be opening?” [Adventurer]
“It would be nice if it opened up soon~” [Adventurer]

These are people that Ryouma got to know in the carriage from the abandoned mine monster subjugation request. Ever since then, the people Ryouma talked to outside of Jeff’s group had increased. It would appear that these guys are also waiting for Ryouma’s laundromat to open.

“Actually, Laundry Agency Bamboo Forest is already open starting today.” [Ryouma]
“Really!?” [Adventurer]
“Yes. There’s also a service targeted towards adventurers that will clean armor and weapons, so please, do try it out.” [Ryouma]
“Alright! When I go home today, I’m definitely going!” [Adventurer]

In order to announce it, I purposely spoke about the store being opened as well as its location in a loud voice. After this I’ll be going to the abandoned mine to make some rounds. So with that in mind, I also accepted an herb collection request. Like this, I’ll be able to collect the herbs while I go around the abandoned mine.

Honestly, even if you tell me to leave the store in your hands, it is the store’s first day, so I’d like to get my rounds over with quickly and go back.

When I got back to the store, what waited for me there was a huge crowd. Even though it’s the store’s first day, there’re already like 20 people waiting outside!?

I hurriedly went inside the store.

“Welcom– … ah, boss!” [Karla]
“Karla-san, how’re things?” [Ryouma]

“I’m so happy I could scream!” [Karla]
“Boss! Even the neighboring aunties came over to have their clothes washed!” [Carm]

Said Carm-san who came out while he was carrying laundries. At any rate, we have to somehow get rid of this crowd!

“I’ll also help out. You two deal with the reception, I’ll take care of carrying the laundry!” [Ryouma]

After I said that, I did nothing else but carry the laundry and serve the customers.

But even though I kept doing that, people still kept coming. What’s going on!?

In the end, the endless human wave only ended after 3 o’clock in the afternoon. While you can’t call this ‘many’ anymore, I still needed to explain to them how things worked one by one, and so it still took time.

Anyway, it would seem that this store’s pricing is really too cheap. Because of that I was asked things like, “Will you really wash our clothes at this price?” or “You aren’t going to suddenly demand more money from us after, right?” It was quite troublesome, because there were people that just couldn’t understand. At some point, because of all the people gathered, even the town’s guards who were on patrol stopped by.

However, the guards’ stopping by was unexpectedly a godsend. When they stopped by the store, the guard’s leader heard about it. Because of that he actually went, to get the group option for 35 people and even bought 2 bags with him. It seems that they were hiring someone to wash their laundry for them, but because of the public office’s cost cutting, they became unable to do that anymore.

Then, while he said that it would have been fine if only the salary wasn’t cut, he let out a little more of his complaints towards the public office and then said that he’ll come again. Am I already landing big contracts on the store’s first day?

But the store opens from 8 o’clock in the morning, so we spent around 3 minutes per person, right? Also, I don’t know at what point in time people started to come, but the twins probably worked without having lunch until 7 o’clock. … Isn’t this really bad? I may be fine, but these 2 are… If I leave it like this, I’ll be exploiting my employees! I need to avoid that no matter what!! I swear to my previous life!

“Good work today, Carm-san, Karla-san.” [Ryouma]
“Thanks for today, boss.” [Karla]
“There were so many people today.” [Carm]
“Right, though I do wonder if it’s ok for there to be a sudden influx of customers.” [Karla]
“I believe it’ll be better for the customers to increase quickly. But in order to be able to alternately take rest, we need four to six people. Even though we also had to explain to the customers how the store worked today, by looking at the reactions of the customers, it can be said that even if we were to focus solely on the work without the explanations, the number of people would be still be insufficient.” [Ryouma]

“The customers seemed like they were satisfied with the speed and the result, so the customers will probably increase again tomorrow. By taking applications at the guild, it should be possible to get some help quickly.”[Karla]
“I see… when employing, how much should I put the salary at?’ [Ryouma]
“120~150 suits in a day should be enough. With that much it’ll be enough for one to live on normally, moreover it should also be possible to save up. And because this is exceptional for a starting salary, we should also be able to gather people quickly.” [Karla]
“Then in that case, I’ll be going to the guild now. The faster the better.” [Ryouma]
“Please take care!” [Carm & Karla]

I quickly went out the store. When I got out, there were four people nearby who had plenty of luggage with them. They're from the neighboring house and everyone seems to be hugging a huge bag.

"Oh, Ryouma-kun" [Poline]
"Poline-san, Reni, Rick, and even Zeke. What is that you're carrying?" [Ryouma]
"We thought of having these washed. You see, because our house has a butcher, we have quite a number of clothes that have been stained with blood." [Zeke]

The one who said that was Zeke, Poline-san's husband. Zeke has a butcher's shop just right next to Poline-san's flower shop. The meat I bought for the celebration of the store also came from Zeke's store.

When you think of a butcher for a husband, in anime, you'd normally imagine a big muscular man. But this guy is the exact opposite. His height isn't bad, but his body is thin. Extremely thin. He looks like an unhealthy guy who'd topple down if the wind were to blow against him.

"I heard from the adventurers that if I bring these clothes to your store we'd be able to get rid of the blood." [Zeke]
"So we decided to bring out the clothes that we were planning to just buy replacements for." [Poline]
"Thank you very much. I'm sorry for this abrupt question, but do you have employees hired by any chance?" [Ryouma]
"If you include me, there's 10 of us." [Zeke]
"In that case, there's a special option for 7 people above, so I highly recommend you take advantage of it. A bag for 14 people's worth of clothes will cost you only 1 medium copper coin and 8 small copper coins, much cheaper than the individual bags."
"Really!? That's a pretty good deal." [Poline]
"Then in that case we'll take that." [Zeke]

While I was doing some sales talk, Rick talked to me.

"Hey, Ryouma. What are you doing? Skipping on work?" [Rick]
"Ha, ha, ha, I guess it can't be helped if it looks like that. But, I'm not. I'm heading to the merchant guild." [Ryouma]
"Really?" [Reni]

The one who asked that was Reni.

"The store became a lot more popular than I'd expected, and so if we were to continue like this, we wouldn't have enough people." [Ryouma]
"No way!? It's the first day, you know!?" [Reni]
"Well I did do some advertising, but I honestly still didn't expect this much to come. So I'm going to the guild now to get some extra helping hands quick." [Ryouma]
"I'm shocked. That many people actually came?" [Poline]
"Yes, in fact the two people I've hired have been working the entire day for 7 hours without rest." [Ryouma]

After I talked with those four, I left them and went to visit the merchant guild. When I got there, I was brought to the reception room again, and the guild master came to meet me.

"Today's the store's opening, but… is there some sort of problem?" [Grisela]
"Yes, it was a lot more popular than expected. Thanks to that I need to hire some more people." [Ryouma]
"On the first day? Well I'm beat, even I couldn't have anticipated this… So you came here to get some helping hands, huh? In that case, I'll go gather some guys who can immediately work starting tomorrow. Once I do, you choose who you want." [Grisela]

After that, until the people have been gathered in the guild's meeting room, I was told to wait at the reception room. When the people have finally been gathered, they contacted me, and I went to the meeting room. When I got there, there were 30 people. Some were old, some female, and some male, there were all sorts.

They looked at me and appraised me as an employer. Then after a while, they made a face as if they had seemingly lost interest, and turned their gaze away from me.

Well it can't be helped because I'm in an 11 year old kid's body after all… There are definitely people who wouldn't want to work under me, right? Well, there's nothing that I don't understand here.

"Everyone here can do basic calculation. Any one of these guys is able to work at your store immediately." [Grisela]
"Got it. It's a pleasure to meet you all, I am the manager of the store of Laundry Agency Bamboo Forest, Ryouma Takebayashi. Thank you for gathering here today, despite your tight schedules." [Ryouma]

When I said that, the people around made a commotion. After listening to their whispering voices, it would appear that they didn't think I would be their employer and had just assumed I was a lapdog or something.

Turns out, they actually weren't evaluating me a while ago. After my greeting, the tension in the room had clearly gone down. I ignored that and asked a question.

"Umm… Then I'd like to ask a question first. Amongst the people in this room, is there anyone who has something against working at my store?" [Ryouma]

At that question, several objections were raised. They were mainly the younger ones, though.

Even though I'm shorthanded, I have no interest in picking up people who don't want an 11 year old kid as their boss, or people who will work unwillingly. Because of this, it's better for me to talk about the salary, last. I'd be troubled if people just crowded over me just because the salary was high. There's also a lot of them, so I guess I might as well reduce them.

The people who weren't satisfied left. I told those kinds of people that I won't pressure them if they don't want to work, and then had them leave the room. 24 out of the 30 people here, ended up leaving the room. The remaining ones were just 6. Well it's not like I don't understand why those guys left… in any case I first give my thanks to the people who've decided to stay here.

"Then, to the six remaining here, I'll have you talk as someone who is interested in working at my store. But before that, for telling me that you don't mind working even for a child like me, I give you all my sincerest thanks." [Ryouma]

As I said that, I bowed my head once. Then I began to talk.

"Going to the main point. My store, Bamboo Forest, is currently hiring people who can serve customers and carry some things. But even though I say 'carry', it really only involves just clothes, so even girls can do it. However, there is one point that you need to take note of. I am not only a shopkeeper, but also a slave magic user. Because of that, there are slimes in my shop, which I am using as helping hands." [Ryouma]

At those words, the remaining 6 were surprised. Hearing about being a slave magic user seemed to be normal to them, but it would appear that hadn't thought of slimes being used to help out.

"As such, people who are afraid of slimes, or people who do not like slimes will find it difficult to work in my store. Hence, I would like to know if there is any among you who would find this to be a problem." [Ryouma]

When I said that, one girl raised her hand up.

“What is it?” [Ryouma]
“Are you using that slime because you lack people? Or will you be using that slime even after you have enough people?” [Girl]
“I will still use it, even with sufficient hands. If I say something like this, there are probably some of you who wouldn’t like it, but I’d like you all to treat the slimes as your coworkers.” [Ryouma]

When I said that, the girl along with 3 others, refused to work with the slimes and left the room. With this, the only ones left in the room, are the middle aged man and the young woman.

Eh? I’m only going to be interviewing these two?

They just simply gathered people who could immediately work, so it’s not like they gathered people who would want to work at my store… but still, this is quite shocking! … Well whatever, I wonder how these 2 remaining ones will go.

I spoke to the last two.

“Since the both of you have chosen to stay, then I guess you’re both alright with slimes.” [Ryouma]

The two responded by slightly nodding their heads.

“First, I’d like you both to introduce yourselves. Also, if there are any kind of conditions you wish to have in your contract, then please, do mention it. Let’s start with the man, first.” [Ryouma]

I first called out to the guy on the right. I’ll also have the girl talk later… but honestly there’s something quite concerning about these two. First, their attire. The clothes they’re wearing are quite different from what people generally wear. Those are the kind you’d see in a Chinese movie. And on top of that, that cane the guy is holding, and that girl’s hair ornament…

While I was observing the two, the man spoke.

“My name is Fei. And this is my daughter, Li Ling. We’d be glad if you could hire the both of us.” [Fei]

Wow! They even talk like the Chinese flicks! And to think that they’re actually father and daughter…

“You guys are relatives?” [Ryouma]
“She doesn’t look like me, right? It’s because she takes after her mother. Also, there’s something I need to tell you.” [Fei]

As he said that, he showed me his right leg. On that right leg, there was a brace affixed to it.

“I’m a merchant from a country called Gilmar. We ran away from the country because of the war. And ever since we got here, we’ve had nothing but bad luck as we had our money stolen time and time again. Since we didn’t have any money at the start, I thought of making even a little by mining. But then the cave collapsed, and now my right leg’s broken. Unfortunately, I don’t have any money to get it healed with magic, so it’s going to take time to heal. Can I still be hired even with this injury?” [Fei]

A broken bone, huh? If I remember right, you can heal that with several casts of ‘High Heal’, or alternatively, one cast of a ‘Mega Heal’. I can’t use either, but my slime can. Though then again, even if I don’t heal him and have him work as a receptionist for the meantime, there won’t be any problem.

“You can work as a receptionist for the mean time, so there won’t be any problem in regards to your leg.” [Ryouma]
“Really?” [Fei]
“Working as a receptionist is also something admirable. As long as you are able to interact well with the customers, there won’t be any problems. As for the salary, is there anything you have in mind?” [Ryouma]
“None. As long as I can be compensated enough to live, then it’s fine.” [Fei]
“I see. Then, next, is the young miss… Li Ling-san, right? Is there anything you’re hoping for?” [Ryouma]
“I’m the same with my dad. The only thing I’m hoping for is to be able to work alongside my dad, and make enough to live on. Also, if you could introduce us somewhere cheap to stay, then we’d be grateful. The place we’re staying at right now is the guild’s temporary lodging. Once we find a job, we won’t be able to stay there anymore.” [Li Ling]
“Since I can’t get any job because of my leg, my daughter is doing some odd jobs to get us by. But with only that, we’re only able to barely hang on. Actually, we barely have anything left. So as long as it’s a place we can live at cheaply, then we won’t have any complaints.” [Fei]

Live-in, huh? Well the employee lodging house I made is free anyway. As for the salary, they did say it's fine even if it's cheap, so I guess the salary range I had already decided before will do just fine.

Besides, everyone else aside from these two had already left. And also, I do need some extra helping hands immediately, and the job at my store isn't difficult either. I don't think they'll have any problems with the job.

Moreover, although these two seem to be hiding it, they're actually quite strong. With that much strength, I can even have them work as guards for the store.

"In that case, there're rooms for employees to stay at, at the second floor of the store. Would you be fine staying over there?" [Ryouma]
"Really!?" [Fei]

There's still one more thing left though. Something I need to know no matter what. Because I believe these two aren't the type to make an honest living.

In this world there's nothing unusual about being hired as a guard and killing a few. In fact, I myself have killed 30 bandits. But in these people's case, the number isn't something like that. It's my first time feeling something like this. Is this what they mean when they say something reeks of blood? Forget Japan, ever since coming into this world, I've never felt anything like this.

… In the unlikely case where we end up fighting. If it's just me, I might still be fine. But if I have to protect the guild master while fighting, then things might get a bit rough.

"There's one last thing I want to know, but…. Before that, guild master." [Ryouma]
"What?" [Grisela]
"My deepest apologies, but may I ask the guild master to leave the room for a moment? There's something I need to discuss regarding the store." [Ryouma]

I said it lightly, but honestly speaking, I want her to leave. I think I was able to get the message across, but…

"Why are you chasing me out? If there's something up, then just say it." [Grisela]

Looks like she ended up doing the opposite, and asked me about my motive instead.

"It concerns the store's secret." [Ryouma]

While not arousing suspicion from Fei and Li Ling, I try to get the guild master out. But when I tried to do that, I noticed Fei-san move. I guess he noticed… I'm bad at talking secretly, so it would have been great if it worked. But, it's not like I expected anything anyway… I guess it can't be helped.

The tension in the room got worse.

"Guild master. It's fine. It would appear the shopkeeper's already noticed." [Fei]

When he said that, I felt that something was off. What's going on?

"Shopkeeper, exactly who are you? We may be former killers, but we have no ill will against you or the guild master." [Fei]

It's true that I didn't feel any intent to fight… but did the guild master know about them?

"Guild master, you knew?" [Ryouma]

When I said that, the guild master breathed out a sigh, then said, “Of course I knew. I don’t know about others, but before I introduce someone to a job, especially those from other countries, I make sure to properly check them. After all, it’d be bad if I introduced a spy, right? Don’t worry, these two really did desperately run away from their country. Still though, you did pretty well figuring them out.” [Grisela]

“We even went so far as to disguise ourselves as normal people…” [Li Ling]
“The only ones who’ve managed to figure us out until now are you two. Since you were able to figure us out, you’re definitely not normal. It’s quite curious.” [Fei]
“I don’t have the same insight the guild master possesses, but I’ve been studying martial arts for a long time. Because of that I can tell whether someone is strong or weak. Also…” [Ryouma]
“Also?” [Fei]

“I was quite concerned about the hidden weapons you have with you.” [Ryouma]
“Fei! Li Ling! You two actually brought something like that!?” [Grisela]
“Aiya… you noticed even that?” [Li Ling]
“It’s because a long time ago, things regarding hidden weapons were driven into me, plenty. In this world the scariest living things are humans. They use their heads, trick people, and make others let their guard down. And the instrument used to follow that through are hidden weapons. So in order to protect myself, I studied them.” [Ryouma]

This is something related to my father. But now that I think about it, it is something nostalgic.

“I was hit by those plenty. During a disagreement in the house for one, or during my day-to-day life for another.” [Ryouma]
“Exactly how have you been living until now?” [Grisela]
“You don’t seem to be someone like us though. You’re aura is different.” [Li Ling]
“You’re close, but you’re not. Your aura is like that of someone who only learned the techniques without using them.” [Fei]

They can actually understand my aura to that extent? They’re amazing… these guys.

“True, I did learn a lot of techniques meant for actual combat from my master. However, I was only taught how to use it, and was forbidden from actually using it. I’ve only started using my abilities 3 years ago. And my opponents were nothing but bandits.” [Ryouma]
“It’s the difference in age. We killed bandits who disobeyed the law and traitors back in our country. There was plenty of fighting back in our country and the public order was bad. If we didn’t kill, we wouldn’t have been able to protect ourselves. What we told you a while ago wasn’t a lie. We’re your usual hardworking merchants.” [Fei]

“The master we were serving lost in the war, and our country as well as our work lost its meaning. And then, we came to this country. We haven’t done any job worth boasting. But even then, will you still employ us?” [Li Ling]
“The guild master acknowledges you guys, so it’s fine as long as you guys work normally.” [Ryouma]

I won’t lose out on anything as long as they work. And besides, I don’t have any intention of pursing matters of the past.

“Really? I didn’t think you’d actually hire us even after finding out.” [Fei]
“We even prepared to run away.” [Li Ling]
“Please don’t, if you do, it’ll be troublesome. I’m in need of hands right now… and besides, what’s important is the ‘now’, so I don’t have any problem with your past. Please do come and work for me at my store. Also, would it be alright if I also ask you to work as bodyguards when needed?” [Ryouma]

I doubt there’d be any problem when even the guild master left them alone, despite knowing their situation. After all, the guild master’s insight is greater than mine.

In fact, I feel like she can actually see through the fact that I'm actually a 40 year old uncle… I do hope it's just my imagination.

"Don't worry, I'll work properly." [Fei]
"Just leave the bodyguard duty to me." [Li Ling]
"Then, I'll officially hire you two. It'll be a pleasure working with you two from now on." [Ryouma]

We all bowed our heads. Afterwards, the guild master spoke.

"You done? If so, then go. I've already had a carriage prepared." [Grisela]
"Thank you very much, guild master." [Ryouma]
"It's fine, don't' mind something like this. Fei, Li Ling, do a good job, ok? After all, this kid's store has a bright future ahead of it. And next time, don't bring hidden weapons with you!" [Grisela]
"If I don't bring them with me, I won't be able to calm down." [Fei & Li Ling]
"How long are you planning to act like assassins!? Aren't you guys, merchants right now!? … Although they're like this, they're not bad people. They won't commit any crimes. Please take care of them." [Grisela]
"Understood." [Ryouma]
"Take this with you too. It's their resume. Show it to those two from Serge's, ok?" [Grisela]
"Right… wait a moment, shouldn't you have given this to me right from the start?" [Ryouma]
"Hee-hee-hee, I wanted to see how good your eyes were. Everyone else pretty much left, but these two are the prized catch. They can get the job done. Also your insight isn't bad. It's not a merchant's insight though. Well, do your best, ok?" [Grisela]
"Thank you very much." [Ryouma]

I left the guild with Fei-san and Li Ling-san, and rode back to the store, on the carriage the guild master had prepared.

When we got back to the store, we were greeted by a huge crowd of customers and two busy twins.

"Welcome home, boss!" [Carm & Karla]
"There's so many…" [Li Ling]
"This is your store? It's quite popular, huh?" [Fei]
"I'm going. Carm-san, Karla-san, please receive the customers." [Ryouma]
"Boss, I'll work too. If it's carrying stuff, I can do it." [Li Ling]
"Me too, if it's laundry then I can also carry some." [Fei]

They offered to help, themselves, so I didn't hold back and took their offer. Fei-san appears to specialize at reception, but it seems he can also work to some extent.

At any rate, like this, we'll be able to get through the evening rush.

… After a long struggle, we finally managed to reach the store's closing hour. We put up a note saying we're closed, and then closed the door.

"Fuu… Good job today, everyone!" [Ryouma]
"Thank you for your efforts!" [Everyone else]
"Ryouma-sama, these two are the new hires, right?" [Karla]
"Yes, the man is Fei-san, and the woman is Li Ling." [Ryouma]
"I'm Fei. My pleasure to work with you." [Fei]
"Li Ling, nice to meet you." [Li Ling]
"I am Carm Norad." [Carm]
"I am Karla Norad. It's our pleasure as well." [Karla]

“I actually planned to have them start tomorrow, but they somehow ended up working today.” [Ryouma]
“But of course. After all, you’re allowing us to work here as live-ins.” [Fei]
“It’s only a given for us to help out when it’s busy, right? But that aside, there’s something I wanted to ask.” [Li Ling]
“What is it?” [Ryouma]
“We’ve been carrying laundry, but when does it get washed? We just take the laundry, then toss it into the next room. Afterwards, we just get it back from the slimes.” [Li Ling]
“Now that you mention it, I haven’t explained to you how the store works, have I?” [Ryouma]

I took out a cleaner slime and a goblin’s loin cloth, and presented my usual explanation. When I did so, the two understood the reason why the guild master mentioned that my store had a good future. And after I finally told them, that today was the store’s first day, they were shocked.

For so many people to come on the first day… in my previous life, this much would be on the level of a pachinko parlor, huh? Anyway, it seems that in this world, a store being this popular on the first day is extremely rare. Is it because they don’t advertise?

Well whatever, I’ve finally completed the first stage of the store. I guess, I‘ll go heal Fei-san’s leg now. I called Fei-san and Li Ling-san over to the employee lounge. I had them sit there, and told them to wait, while I went out to get the heal slimes. When I came back I had two heal slimes with me.

When I told them that the heal slimes were going to use ‘High Heal’ to heal Fei-san, they were shocked. But nevertheless they gave their thanks for being able to receive treatment.

After the heal slimes healed Fei-san, his leg was fully healed. It took 6 times all in all, with each slime healing 3 times because it was a bone fracture, but the slimes still managed to heal him with ‘High Heal’.

“You saved me. I am truly grateful.” [Fei]
“It costs a lot of money to be healed by magic, you know? Is it really ok to receive it for free?” [Li Ling]
“It’s fine. After all, it’s the boss’ responsibility to make sure that his employees are able to work comfortably. Also, the slimes did it, so it didn’t cost me anything. Like this, I think it’s fine to give it for free.” [Ryouma]

Looks like there’s someone in the town who can heal with healing magic, but because of the skill and magic power required, the cost is quite high. So since it would have been expensive to receive healing magic, Fei-san decided to work at the guild, doing odd jobs, while waiting for his body to heal without relying on magic.

“It would have been great if we were able to bring more money with us, but when we were running away, we ended up using our money as bribe to cross the border.” [Fei]
“Is that why you have no money?” [Ryouma]
“The guards of our country are greedy. It doesn’t matter whether its crime or running away. As long as you bring out money, they’ll look the other way like it’s perfectly normal. But if you don’t have any, they’ll catch you and bring you back to get some reward. That’s why we couldn’t afford to be stingy. If we did, and the reward for us was higher. Then they’ll just arrest us instead.” [Fei]
“The jobs we did were for the country… so if our identities were leaked out, the reward for us would end up higher than normal people. But there are also doubtful people who catch normal people and interrogate them. The people running away from our country usually use up their money there. After all, there’s no point in being stingy when it comes to your life.” [Li Ling]

That ‘Gilmar’ country sounds dangerous… And she also mentioned that there’s plenty of fighting. Is the country crumbling?

After we talked a bit, I assigned Fei-san and Li Ling-san their own rooms. Then, I had them put their belongings in order.

After that I went to check today's profit from Karm-san. Today we got a total of 791 copper coin and 8 small copper coins, totaling to 7918 suits. The 18 suits came from Poline-san, who went for the option targeted at groups with more than 7 people. But as for the others, they came here to try out the store and had only bought the individual bags. They looked happy after trying out the store, so I guess they'll end up becoming regular customers.

As for Carm-san and Karla-san, they too were surprised by the store's popularity and were shocked to see the profit for the day. After I asked them about it, it turns out that amongst stores without nobles for its customers, a medium sized store would make 4000 suits in a day.

Even if you deduct the expenses from the profit, the earning for today's opening day still trumps it. Seeing that, they couldn't help but be shocked.

"This is amazing!" [Carm]
"If it's like this, then very soon, the store will be able to make profits comparable to a large store without noble customers!" [Karla]
"How much does that kind of store make?" [Ryouma]
"20,000 suits. As a rule, anything more than that won't be mentioned. If one has nobles as a customer, then one's profit will greatly increase. Although it's quite expensive, if one is able to sell luxurious goods, then it's possible to make a lot." [Karla]
"Well in my case, I've got nothing to do with nobles, but if I'm able to make 2.5 times today's income, then it should be possible to be on the same level as a large store." [Ryouma]

"We made this much today, so it should be possible to reach that goal within a month. We also still haven't received the portion from the guild. If we include them, our customers will greatly increase." [Karla]
"Perhaps, there might even be a day where our profit for a day will reach 1 medium gold coin." [Carm]
"Ha ha ha, no way." [Ryouma]

When you say 1 medium gold coin, that's 50,000 suits. There's no way that could possibly happen.

"It's possible." [Carm & Karla]

Eh, really?

"This town is a mining town. Because of that, there are plenty of miners and people who deal with iron. Although, the number has decreased substantially because of a big mine being abandoned, there're still at least 10,000 people, you know?" [Carm]
"Moreover, people won't come and buy just one bag. While I think it may be difficult to continuously go over a medium gold coin, it should be possible in cases where the adventurer's guild has just finished a big request." [Karla]
"I see…" [Ryouma]

It might be possible once.

"Also, if Ryouma-sama were to create another branch in a different town, it wouldn't be hard to go beyond a medium gold coin every day." [Carm]
"We're already talking about branch stores? That's quick." [Ryouma]
"That may be so, but it's not wrong to think ahead." [Carm]
"As long as you have some able and trustworthy hands, then you should consider it." [Karla]

Certainly, even though today's the first day, we made quite a profit. I'll take note of it. But for now I think I should look at the present.

“Ah, I forgot about it, but here. It’s the resume of the two I’d just hired.” [Ryouma]
“We’ll examine it.” [Carm & Karla]

The twins began to read the resume I handed to them.

“Although they said that they’re ok with a low salary, please pay them 150 suits daily.” [Ryouma]

I did also ask them to double as bodyguards. So it should be fine to give them the highest pay of my anticipated price range.

“Understood.” [Carm & Karla]

After that, I bid goodbye to the four, and then went back to the lodging.

When I got back, I reported the earnings for the first day to Rheinhart-san and the others. When I did so, they were shocked.

Chapter 14

TL Note: Might want to get some snacks before reading...

The next day.

I also went to the store today, early in the morning. After preparing the store, I went out to buy some ingredients to welcome the new hires. When I got back to the store, quite a number of people had already started coming.

“This many, already?’ [Ryouma]

I opened the store at 8 o’clock. After which I went out to buy some ingredients for about an hour. So right now the time is 9 o’clock... It’ll probably be a good idea to conduct a study on what the peak time is for the store.

While I was thinking about that, I entered the store through the employee entrance.

I also took a glance at the store’s state, but there didn’t seem to be any problems. Karla-san and Fei-san dealt with the reception, while Carm-san and Li Ling-san carried the laundries.

After I confirmed that everything was going fine, I went to the kitchen to prepare. The menu for today is pizza.

I knead the dough, form it into a disk, and then spread meat sauce over it.

By the way, this meat sauce I’m using right now is the leftover meat sauce from the celebration 2 days ago. I had a refrigerator with me, so I was able to preserve it for at least 2 days. But just to be safe, I also checked the sauce with ‘Identify’. If Serge-san catches wind of my refrigerator, he’ll probably make a fuss again. Or will Pioro-san make an even bigger commotion, I wonder. Well, he did say he dealt with food commodities…

I put cheese and onions on top of the meat sauce covered dough, sprinkle some herbs here and there, and then I put the dough with its toppings into the kiln to bake it.

While it was baking, I prepared some fruit juice and water, and a bunch of other stuff. When the pizza was done, I took it out from the kiln. I took my portion and ate it while I checked the taste. Yep, it’s done.

It’s almost noon. It’s probably better to have them eat early. So with that thought in mind, I leave the kitchen.

“Carm-san, Karla-san, lunch is ready. I’ll help out, so please alternately take your lunch.” [Ryouma]
“Thank you very much.” [Carm & Karla]

After that, I substituted with Li Ling-san and Karla-san, and they took their lunch. When they came back, Fei-san and Carm-san went to have their meal. Like this, everyone was somehow able to have their lunch and get some rest.

We were able to get through the day, but if this keeps on, then I won’t be able to work as an adventurer.

Today’s workload is better compared to yesterday. But then again, yesterday’s workload was at the point where someone could faint from overwork. So even though I say it got better, it really only got to the point where the workers can work normally. And if I left these guys, they’ll probably find it difficult. Moreover, these guys don’t have the luxury to cook their meal.

“Good job today!” [Ryouma]
“Thank you for today!” [Carm, Karla, Fei, Li Ling]
“A lot of customer came again today. I wonder how our profits went this time.” {Ryouma}
“From my calculations, our earnings for today total to 11,877 suits.” [Carm]

1.5 times yesterday’s, huh? Not bad.

“Today’s profit is quite good.” [Ryouma]
“Rather than ‘quite’, I’d say it’s a huge success.” [Fei]
“At the rate it’s going, the customers will probably still increase.” [Li Ling]
“Yeah… it would probably be a good idea to get more hands If someone were to catch a cold or get injured right now, then then burden placed on everyone else will increase several folds.” [Ryouma]
“True, it would definitely be better to get more hands.” [Carm]

“When the customers increase, and in the instance where one of us becomes unable to work, then there’s a possibility that the store won’t be able to maintain itself. So let’s get some more people quickly. We just got some new ones yesterday, but it would help out a lot if you could get more from the guild again.” [Karla]
“Alright. Also, I was thinking of getting a cook for you guys. Can I get that from the guild as well?” [Ryouma]
“A cook? You could definitely hire one from the guild, but why would you want to hire a cook?” [Karla]
“Well since everyone has their hands full with work, there’s no one who can go and make the meal. So I thought I’d hire a cook to leave the cooking duty to.” [Ryouma]
“That’s certainly true, but that kind of stuff is something a servant does, you know?” [Karla]
“That may be true. But since you’re eating anyway, wouldn’t it be better to eat good food? That’s what employee benefits are about, you know?” [Ryouma]

“I agree, however, what’s an employee benefit?” [Karla]
“Ah… it’s a kind of philosophy that pursues the idea of having employees work happily in one’s store.” [Ryouma]
“I see. Certainly, Ryouma-sama does think a lot about our welfare.” [Karla]
“Not only did you give us a place to stay, you even gave us a high salary. There’s no other store that treats their employees this well, you know?” [Fei]
“The salary’s good, the room is warm, and even the lunch was delicious. We already don’t have any intentions of going to another store.” [Li Ling]
“I’m happy to hear that. Well then, I’ll leave everything to you guys, ok? I’ll go to the guild to get some more hands now.” [Ryouma]
“Take care!” [Carm, Karla, Fei, Li Ling]

The four sent me off, as I left the store.

When I got to the guild, I was again brought to the reception room. There, I told the guild master that I wanted to hire more people again. Hearing that, the guild master whispered an “Oh?” as she began to observe me. Then she asked me about the profits for today and yesterday.

When I told her about the store’s profits, the guild master laughed grinningly. She called someone over and told him to gather some people. Naturally, the people today were different from yesterday’s group. When I was asked how many I wanted to hire. I replied with 2 or 3 for now, plus a cook. Hearing about wanting a cook, naturally, the guild master couldn’t help but be curious.

After I explained, she understood. In this world, employee benefits aren't something commonly practiced. Because of that, what I’m doing is a bit strange. Well, it’s not bad though, right? Or at least that’s what the guild master says.

I got 4 people today. The three young girls who came from a poor village to make money were Jeanne, Maria, and Fina. And Celma, who stopped being able to work as a cook after the owner of the inn closed the store Celma-san was working at, because of old age.

These girls were recommended to me by the guild master, and after I confirmed their intentions, I employed them. Because of that, I was able to finish everything in less than 10 minutes. They all wanted to work as live-ins as well, so we had a carriage prepared, and then we went back to the store.

Before leaving the guild, the guild master left me some words.

"Ryouma, at the rate you're going, you should think of starting up a branch or two in a different town. It's fine even if you do it immediately. But when you do, discuss it with me." [Grisela]

I was taken aback when she said the same thing Carm-san and the others told me. At that, she lightly hit my back with her cane and yelled, "Pull yourself together!" to encourage me.

After that, when I got to the store with the new hires, Carm-san and the others were still at the store.

"Welcome home, boss! [Carm & Karla]

When they saw me, that's what they said. I told them that the four I had brought with me, also wanted to work as live-ins, so I brought them with me. Afterwards, I introduced them.

Four days later.

Since I hired 4 new people, 4 days had passed. Nowadays, even if I don't work, the shop won't have any problems.

The three girls worked hard, and Celma-san's cooking was good. The day after I hired them, I went to take a look, but everything seemed to be going well.

The day before yesterday, I took some time to clean the wall outside, and trim the lawn. And yesterday, I did my rounds around the abandoned mine.

The store's only been open for around a week, but the days where the store's income goes over 10,000 suits continue. It's 100 times a normal person's daily expense. This is more than enough, right?

Everyone also continues to do their job without complaining. Looks like I've completely become unneeded. With this, I think I can back to working as an adventurer. But while I was thinking that, Serge-san told me to come over today.

"I've made you wait." [Ryouma]
"Ryouma-sama, thank you for coming. Please, over here." [Serge]
"Excuse me." [Ryouma]
"I'm very sorry to have called you all of the sudden." [Serge]
"No, please don't worry about it. After all, the store's been able to function with just my employees now. The people you sent over are also doing their best." [Ryouma]
"I see. I'm relieved to know that they're working well." [Serge]
"It seems I'm always being taken care of by Serge-san." [Ryouma]
"It's the same for me. Thanks to you, buying a lot of bags and daily necessities, I've made quite a profit, myself." [Serge]
"I'm also grateful. Thanks to you I've been able to continuously make over 15,000 suits in these past 3 days. The

store's doing quite well now." [Ryouma]
"I'm quite surprised to hear that you're able to make that much of a profit. If that continues, the stores in that area won't be able to match you. Or rather, I guess they already can't match you." And then Serge-san took a breath, and then said, "On top of all that, I actually still have something profitable I wish to speak with you. This is really surprising."

When I heard that, I tilted my head.

Then Serge-san said, "Ryouma-sama, it's about the waterproof cloths."
"Oh…" [Ryouma]

I've completely forgotten about that…

"Are you aware that it's almost time for the Grell Frog Outbreak?' [Serge]
"Yes, I've heard of it." [Ryouma]
"The mud that causes that outbreak, releases a horrible smell. But because the Grell Frog's leather can be turned into armor, and its guts are good ingredients for medicines, there are plenty of adventurers who would go there to hunt them and sell the spoils for a high price. And so, I thought it would be a good opportunity to start selling the so called 'waders' you came up with along with the other water proof products… In line with that, I wanted to inquire regarding the production rate of the waterproof cloth." [Serge]

Umm… right now, I have 907 sticky slimes… but it also depends on the cloth.

"How long is one sheet of cloth before treating it?" [Ryouma]
"The one we have prepared here, is 70m long per sheet." [Serge]

If I take a contract for an amount I can't produce, we'll both end up troubled afterwards… If I give myself some margin for error, 10 slimes should be able to get a sheet finished in a day. Even if it is 20 slimes per sheet, 45 sheets should be possible.

"Then in that case, after having prepared the production, it should be possible to get 45~90 sheets finished in a day. But because it takes time to dry, it might be less." [Ryouma]

When I said that, Serge-san's countenance brightened.

"Actually, it would already have been enough to make 10 in a day. To be able to do more than that, I'm very grateful. If that cloth is turned into rain gear, then it should sell quickly. When we run out of cloths at that time, the price will skyrocket.
As long as the increase in price isn't too big, then it's all good. But if the price becomes too high, problems can also occur. So, let's store up on waterproof cloths and store them in my storage and in your 'Dimension Home'."
"I understand. Should I start making it now?" [Ryouma]
"Yes, please" [Serge]
"Then in that case, I'd like to buy some cloth materials." [Ryouma]
"I'll prepare it for free. When you come with the waterproof cloth, I'll hand over the payment for the treatment. How much will the treatment be?" [Serge]
"I'll leave it to you. Please put a fair price for the waterproof treatment." [Ryouma]

When I said that, Serge-san chuckled.

"As a merchant you'd normally try to get price that's beneficial for you. This way is very good for me, but now the discussion's turned an unexpected corner. Where will you be treating the cloths? If it's found out that you're the producer, things might get complicated. Do you know of a safe place to treat the cloths? Otherwise, I can prepare one." [Serge]
"I plan to do it in the abandoned mine." [Ryouma]

“Certainly, people won’t go there. But is it alright?” [Serge]
“Yes. I can make a workshop there with my earth magic, people also won’t come, and because I can loiter there under the pretext of being the person responsible for it, I won’t appear suspicious either.” [Ryouma]

Like this, the discussion ended. And I received all of the cloths, 50 sheets all in all, that Serge-san has prepared in his store room. Afterwards, I leave the town and by using ‘Warp’ repetitively I headed towards the abandoned mine. After that, except for the cleaner slimes in the store, I had all my slimes do the rounds for the mine.

After that, I entered the highest tunnel of the mine. In the deepest part of the tunnel, I used ‘Create Block’ and ‘Pavement’ to create a sturdy and wide room, as well as a hole for ventilation. Moreover, I use the bricks the ‘Create Block’ produced and made several workbenches.

The structure of the workbench is simple. I piled up bricks to support one end of the cloth and another for the other end. And on the highest brick, I used ‘Break Rock’ to dig a gutter. On that gutter, I fit a rod made out of stone with ‘Rock’ and ‘Earth Needle’. And then, after spreading the sticky slime’s sticky liquid on the end of that rod, I finished my preparations.

Next, I ordered the sticky slimes to cover the affixed cloth with sticky liquid. And just in case a bug or a cave bat were to come, I put up a barrier and told the slimes to be on guard.

Today, I made 30 of those workbenches.

Come to think of it, the slimes managed to learn staff techniques and spear techniques. When I remembered that, I cut a tree and dried it with alchemy. Using ‘Circle Saw’ and ‘Polish’, I created several rods that have been treated and made padded spears. With this, I can begin the training for staff and spear techniques.

After that, I practiced with the slimes.

When practice ended, I had nothing left to do and was quite bored. Being bored with nothing to do, I decided to take a look at my status board.

Oh? Looks like my Magic Power Recovery Rate UP levelled up from 1 to 3. Is it because I used a lot of magic power when I made the store? Moreover my Slave Magic, Alchemy, Wind Magic, and Electric Magic, all levelled up by 1 as well. It’s probably because I used it quite a lot. Speaking of which, Elia did say she wanted to see a doll I made. Should I make it now? But what should I make?

I then killed time by making an inoffensive doll out of quicklime, and then coloring it with the art materials I got from Sebasu-san.

But halfway through, I ended up a bit too caught up into it. And I almost kept going till it became dark. I immediately put a stop to what I’m doing before I lose track of time. Even under normal situations, I’m the type that easily forgets the time. All the more now that I’m here in a place where I can’t tell the time of day.

I quickly take the 30 sheets of water cloth and the doll. Then with ‘Warp’ I go back to the town.

Before going back to the lodging, I stop by Serge-san’s store, and drop off the 30 sheets of waterproof cloth I just finished.

When I got back to the lodging, I immediately went over to Elia’s room. Araune-san went out from inside and let me in.

“Welcome, Ryouma-san.” [Elia]
“It’s unusual for Ryouma-kun to come by himself to our room. Did something happen?” [Rheinhart]
“Nothing particularly big, but first there is something I want to talk regarding business. Today, I succeeded in

making 30 sheets of water proof cloth, and have already delivered them to Serge's store. I still have some more allowance, so the production rate will gradually increase from tomorrow onwards. As for how far I can go, I'll have to test it." [Ryouma]
"I see. That's good. There doesn't seem to be any problems with the production rate of the waterproof cloths. And the other thing you wanted to talk about?" [Rheinhart]
"That doll that Elia wanted to see. I finished making it while waiting for the cloths to dry." [Ryouma]
"Really? Please show me!" [Elia]

As she said that, I took out several dolls from my 'Item Box'.

"It's this." [Ryouma]

The thing I brought out had the difference between rock and wood, but it's definitely the world famous woodcraft bear. I added my own touch to it though, and replaced the bear with the black bear from the Forest of Gana in order to pass it off as something of this world.

"Oh? It's a black bear ornament. There's this feeling that feels like it's catching fish." [Rheinbach]

Next, I brought out a few things I made on top of a pedestal I made while imaging the figure of a bottle cap. They were colored figurines of monsters like the cave bat, the cave mantis, and the small rat.

"Amazing… They're small, but it's as if they're the real thing!" [Elia]
"Last is this. The best dolls I made." [Ryouma]

What I brought out next were several normal human figurines. Only, the model for these figurines are the four members of the duke's household, Sebasu-san, and the two maids.

"This is me, right?" [Rheinhart]
"And this is me." [Madam]
"I also have one!" [Elia]
"There's also one for me, Sebasu, Araune, and Lilian." [Rheinbach]
"These are some truly elaborate dolls… I knew about Ryouma-sama's skill from seeing the god's statues, but as expected, Ryouma-sama's skill is truly amazing." [Sebasu]
"I made them without having any models, so if you find them to your liking, then it's my honor." [Ryouma]
"Ryouma-san, can I take this?" [Elia]
"Of course. If you're pleased with them, then please." [Ryouma]
"Thank you!" [Elia]

If she's this happy, then I guess it was worth it to make them. I wonder what I should make next…

"If there's another opportunity, I'll make you another one." [Ryouma]
"Thank you, Ryouma-san." [Elia]

After that, I chatted a bit with Rheinhart-san, then I went back to my room. When I got back, Sebasu-san said he'd pay me 10 medium gold coins as compensation for the dolls, but because it was too much, I refused him once.

To begin with, I used them to pass the time. Plus the materials were cheap. And more than anything, I can't accept 10 medium gold coins for something like this! In the end, it was decided that I'll take 2 medium gold coins, but is that really ok?

As I was thinking that, Sebasu-san said, "There are plenty of nobles who want to have their own statue made and placed in the town or in their residence. Compared to when those people give out a request to make a statue, this amount of money can be considered loose change. If it's someone with Ryouma-sama's skill, then the client would naturally have no complaints." [Sebasu]

Seriously!?

After that, I went back to my room and wondered what kind of statute I will make next while making the waterproof cloths tomorrow. While I was thinking that, I fell asleep.

Chapter 15

TL Note: The part with Japanese characters, is basically just Ryouma saying one word in borrowed English, and another in Japanese.

The next day.

The first thing I did in the morning was to go the store. After I had confirmed that there were no problems in the store, I went to the abandoned mine.

I started the production of the waterproof cloth again when I got to the abandoned mine, but thanks to that I'm bored again. While I was thinking about what to do while waiting for the cloths to finish last night, I ended up falling asleep. Thanks to that I wasn't able to come up with anything. In my previous life, I'd just read light novels or play some games. But there's nothing like that here.

I have already finished treating all of the cloths I received. I finished 30 yesterday, so all that was left for today was 20. With that, I finished faster than yesterday… Now what…? I've also already finished training the slimes…

Because of that, I thought of turning the scavenger slimes into a King Scavenger Slime and try fighting it 1 on 1.

This are the current skills of the Scavenger Slime:

Skills:

- Disease Resist Lv7
- Poison Resist Lv7
- Eat Filth Lv8
- Cleaning Lv8
- Deodorization Lv8
- Deodorization Liquid Lv6
- Release Stench Lv8
- Return Nutrients Lv7
- Physical Attack Resistance Lv5
- Enlarge Lv5
- Compress Lv6
- Jump Lv3
- Overeating Lv4
- Taijutsu Lv2

I wonder if it's because the scavenger slime also learned the physical attack resistance, that the king scavenger slime's physical attack resistance rose by a level. The Taijutsu of the scavenger slime is also only level 1. But after becoming a king scavenger slime, it's become level 2.

When you compare the king scavenger slime to an individual scavenger slime, the level of skills seem to increase wholly. While I don't have any proof for it, I guess something is added to the slimes' individual experience, causing the level to rise.

By the way, I fought with the king scavenger slime, bare-handed. But because the effects of the physical attack resistance level 5 was quite high, my attacks barely had any effect. The entire body is elastic, so when you hit it, the impact just slides off. So while its techniques are still amateurish, defense-wise, it's quite excellent.

When I put some serious effort in the power I use, I was able to get a hit in. My power, according to the status board, is B. It's at the level of a first-rate adventurer. So the slime's pretty good. Since, if I have to force my way in like this every time, it becomes quite exhausting.

Its weakness though, lies in its lack of offensive power. With 'Enlarge', the slime can increase its mass and pin down its opponents, but what about its physical strength? In regards to that, it has next to nothing. Putting it bluntly, its attacks have no power behind it at all.

With only this, it can't be helped. So I taught it things like, stretching its body into a tentacle and using it as a whip to attack. Or using that tentacle to wrap around the opponents arm when the opponent comes attacking and using 'Enlarge' to stick itself to the enemy. Or using its elasticity while taking advantage of the opponent's energy to throw the opponent. And a bunch of other stuff.

I also taught it a basic fighting tactic, where the King Scavenger Slime protects its body by parrying the attacks with its body. Then after using the opponent's strength to throw them off, pinning them down with its body after using enlarge.

Doing all this took quite a bit of time, and yet the cloths are still not done, drying. It would be a good idea to try doing something else, but if I get overzealous, I'll lose track of time again. So I took a walk with my slimes instead.

As I was about to go out after I had thought that. All of the sudden, one of my slimes started acting weird. I can understand to some extent the status of the slimes because of the contract, but I don't know what's going on right now.

What is going on?

I quickly go over to the strange slime. The slime that had gotten weird, was the slime I caught for the metal slime evolution experiment! Its body continued to shiver, but it didn't seem like it was sick or anything. Then, in that case…

"No way. Could it actually be evolving?" [Ryouma]

It's still far too early for its evolution, but aside from that, I can't think of any other reason for its behavior.

I ended up shouting, "It's evolving faster than I expected!" And at that moment, the slime suddenly stopped moving. And although it was miniscule, I felt the presence of magic power. The slime sucked in the magic power that leaked out. And then again, and again. It continued this behavior for dozens of times, and as it did so, its color changed. In the end, its color changed to a silvery-white color.

Did it successfully evolve? It seems to be fine and there are no abnormalities. Only, this isn't the color of a metal slime. The color of a metal slime is dark grey, yet this slime's color is like that of a lustrous silver. Realizing something was off, I quickly use 'Monster Identify' and look at its status. What I saw was…

Iron Slime
Skills

- Harden Lv3
- Physical Attack Resistance Lv2
- Jump Lv1
- Digestion Lv3
- Absorption Lv3
- Split Lv2

According to the information, its name is Iron Slime. The skillset is similar to that of the metal slime's, but its 'Harden' skill level is one level higher. Iron… huh? Is it because I fed it iron that it became like this?

"But the metal slime also eats iron, right?"

They eat the same thing, so why did it turn out different?

"Iron(鉄) is iron(アイアン)… then, metal(メタル) is… metal(金属)…!!" [Ryouma]

As realization hit me, I promptly took out the stone I used as feed, and used 'Identify' on it.

Building Stone (Red Soil)

A lump of the soil thrown in the mines, and hardened with earth magic. Includes the following metal: Iron Oxide, Aluminum Oxide.

"As expected. I had forgotten about it, but while the red soil may include iron oxide, some of it also includes aluminum oxide." [Ryouma]

A former kouhai of mine, from my construction job, told me about this before. That guy seemed like the young master of a good family, but for some reason he worked part-time at a construction job. Did his father make him work as a form of education?

That's probably it. That guy was forced to work part-time, so since he wanted to play hooky, he stalled for time during break-time by talking about various stuff. I thought he was just a hindrance to work, so I just generally ignored most of his mumbling… But who would've thought that his knowledge would actually be useful here?

"Metal slimes didn't only eat iron, they also ate aluminum. In fact other metals may have also been mixed up with their food." [Ryouma]

I immediately extract the aluminum and iron from the brick, with my alchemy. And then, I called over the metal slime and the iron slime.

What happened next, was that the iron slime only ate the iron. But the metal slime was able to eat both the iron and the aluminum.

I call over the metal slime, and caress it.

“You were actually omnivorous when it came to metals? Iron slimes are iron, but I wonder what’s going to happen to you. Will you turn to alloy, since you combined both iron and alloy? Hmm… I don’t know much about it, but…” [Ryouma]

I tried asking the metal slime, but naturally, it didn’t answer.

“Well, in any case, I‘ve come to understand the evolution conditions. Oh, and speaking of which, it’s my first time seeing a slime evolve, huh?” [Ryouma]

Actually, this is my first time, seeing a slime evolve. I don’t know why, but for some reason they all evolved while I was asleep. It may be true that as long as I give them enough food, they’ll evolve within half a year. But I don’t actually know the exact date of their evolution. And it’s not like I could actually watch them all the time.

But still, to think that they actually evolved by releasing and absorbing magic power… this… ah, no good, no good. If I start thinking about this now, I’ll end up forgetting the time again. I have to do something else…

“Come to think of it, I wonder if I’ve come to understand more about ‘Identify’.”

I don’t know how the neutral magic, ‘Identify’, worked, but it felt kind of similar to how you’d get information by searching on the web. When I ask, “What is this?” vaguely, all it does is give out the name. Even if I ask for something more detailed, all it gives is a bunch of basic information.

But, during the time when I was cleaning the latrine pits. When I used ‘Identify’ back then, the word ‘sterilization’ came out. And when I used ‘Identify’, the word ‘pathogen’ came out.

That kind of knowledge doesn’t exist in this world. So does that mean that the information that will come out, will change depending on the user’s knowledge?

When I tried it out several times. I came to understand that it showed me more detailed information, when I better visualized the specific things I wanted to know according to my knowledge.

For example, the weight of this stone, the percentage of its contents and their weight.

> Building Stone 503.9g (Red Soil)
>
> A lump of the soil thrown in the mines, and hardened with earth magic. Includes the following metal: Iron Oxide 4.2% 21.1638g, Aluminum Oxide 5.1% 25.6989g

Look, it became this specific. By visualizing it, I was able to make it more specific. I can use this! … Right?

Although it’s good that I’m able to get more specific information now, it’s not like I need it for something now… Or, I guess could gather the iron ingots I bring to Serge-san by grams.

Or I could get the iron ingots that are circulating in the market of this world, use ‘Identify’ on it and then pattern my own iron ingots according to it. Since I don’t want my own iron ingots to get attention, there’s some value in doing that. But there’s really not a whole lot of application for this new ‘Identify’ right now… Besides, everything’s been fine so far.

After that while waiting for the waterproof cloths to finish drying, I made a bunch of 500g 80% ingots and aluminum ingots.

And as soon as the cloths finished drying, I took everything and dropped them off at Serge's.

After that, I took 300 sheets of cloth, and went back to the lodging. It was at an odd time when I got there, so Elia and the others were not yet home.

So I decided to go the store. After all, it's already too late to get requests, so I thought I'd take a look at the store.

When I got to the store, there were plenty of people as usual. Actually, doesn't there seem to be more people than usual?

I entered the store through the employee door, and then went to the lounge… but no one was there. Could it be, that there's so many people, that unless they all work, they can't make it?

When I thought that, I went to the store, opening the doors one after another, as I briskly walked. When I got there, one of the three girls, Fina, was there.

"Boss, you came?" [Fina]
"Good work, today. I went to the employee lounge, but no one was there, so I thought you guys had your hands full." [Ryouma]
"While we're not free, we're not that busy either. To say the least, there are quite a number of people. We've started to understand when the peak time is, so in order to match that, we're all dealing with it." [Fina]

Looks like they've gotten completely used to the job while I wasn't here. I was worried, but it looks like I'm not needed.

While I was thinking that, I noticed.

"Ah…" [Ryouma]
"What's the matter?" [Fina]
"Looks like the cleaner slimes are ready to split." [Ryouma]
"Eh?' [Fina]

To the cleaner slimes, this job is basically eating. And since, they've been eating a lot for a few days now, they've reached a point where they can split again.

"The slimes doing the laundry are going to increase. Since the preparations for that have already been completed, they'll increase a bit, and the efficiency of the laundromat will rise." [Ryouma]
"Really!? That's amazing!" [Fina]
"Yep, slimes are amazing, you know? Well, don't mind me." [Ryouma]
"Ok!" [Fina]

As Fina-san said that, she took a nearby laundry and ran along.

Let's do this!

After that, I had the slimes split and contracted with them. Because of that, the cleaner slimes now total to 54. Even though cleaner slimes don't split much, there were 10 of them that split twice.

As expected, by eating so much every day in a store like this, they're able to split quickly. Moreover, once I let the cleaner slimes split, their numbers will increase, and their work will become even faster, increasing the store's efficiency rate by folds. This rise in efficiency won't be put to waste.

I'm here too, so I decided to have the people that can receive the customers, receive them. Because of that, the ones who ended up working as receptionists are, Carm-san, Karla-san, Fei-san, Li Ling-san, Maria-san and Fina-san. While me and Jeanne-san carried the laundries.

Because of the rise in efficiency, and the increased number of receptionists, the transactions were able to flow smoother.

After a while, the peak time subsided, and the employees were able to get some rest by alternating. In the meantime, I went around performing some maintenance on the store's surrounding.

After that, we were able to safely close the store again.

Chapter 16

TL Note: Here's your extra chapter guys. Special thanks to the anons for donating and making this chapter possible.

Slight mistranslation at the end of the last chapter. Ryouma hasn't left the store yet. The new line for the last line in the last chapter, now reads as: "After that, we were able to safely close the store again."

After closing the shop.

After we closed the shop, I had the cleaner slimes do a simple sweep of the store, then had them drink water. Afterwards, Karla-san came to me to report the profit for the day. For some reason, the atmosphere feels different from the usual report…

"Boss, it's about today's earnings." [Karla]
"What's wrong? Are we in the red?" [Ryouma]
"No, we're not in a deficit. We're good." [Karla]
"So I guess, we were able to make quite profit today as well, then." [Ryouma]
"It's different from yesterday, Ryouma-sama. With just today alone, we were able to make 26,036 suits." [Karla]

26,036 suits!?

"Wait a moment, yesterday and the day before yesterday should have only been 16,000 suits, right? How did we suddenly add another 10,000 to that?" [Ryouma]
"This morning, when you left, we managed to land a big contract. Apparently, the black smiths, and the boss of the carpenters heard about this store by word of mouth. The workers of the ironworks, too. In total, they bought 50 and 35 people's portion of bags. But that's not all, because word of the store has been spread, even the customers who are going for the small group option, has increased. And even the people who come only for themselves have also increased. Lastly, the bags are also still being continually sold." [Karla]
"Could you count the number of plates? It's not like I'm doubting you or anything, I just want to confirm with my own eyes." [Ryouma]
"Of course. Please wait at the office, I'll bring it now." [Karla]

Being told that, I went to the office, took a chair, and waited there.

… Come to think of it, this is my first time using this room, huh? Well, I was always either serving customers, or in the employee lounge…

While I was thinking that, Karla-san came with a piece of paper in her hands.

"This is the number of plates for the day." [Karla-san]
"Thank you very much." [Ryouma]

I took the paper Karla-san brought, and looked at it.

Umm…

Type of service	Suits/Plate	Service total
Service for individuals	10	998 plates = 9,980 suits
Service for 14 people	18	152 plates = 2,736 suits
Service for 35 people	40	55 plates = 2,200 suits

Single's bag	20	159 plates = 3,180 suits
Bag for 14	25	68 plates = 1,700 suits
Bag for 35	30	50 plates = 1,500 suits
Armor Laundry Service	15	316 plates = 4,740 suits
Total		26,036 suits

“Certainly, it is 26,036 suits. I’m speechless, to think that it would actually make this much… I’m really shocked.” [Ryouma]

Even if you deduct the sales of the bags, it’s still around 20,000 suits. This too, is thanks to the cleaner slimes and to everyone.

“Speaking of which, what about the others?” [Ryouma]
“They’re gathered at the employee lounge, and are confirming the earnings.” [Karla]
“Confirming the earnings?” [Ryouma]
“Because the earnings for today have medium copper coins, and small copper coins mixed up, they are currently segregating those while calculating and confirming that the amount is correct.” [Karla]
“So it’s something like that? In that case, let’s go help out.” [Ryouma]
“Please don’t, that’s servant work…” [Karla]
“It’s fine, it’s fine. Even if it’s only in name, I am the boss of this store. I’m also everyone’s comrade when it comes to this job. So I’ll help out.” [Ryouma]
“I understand. However, Ryouma-sama, you are not a manager by name, alone. You are the real boss of this store.” [Karla]

Together with Karla-san, I headed towards the employee lounge… is what I’d like to say, but really, the room is right next to us.

“Thanks for you hard work.” [Ryouma]
“Boss, thanks for today.” [Carm]
“Thanks for today.” [Fina, Jeanne, Maria, Li Ling, Fei]

When I entered, Carm-san was the first to greet me. Afterwards, the other five followed. There is a huge amount of copper coins lying on top of the big table. Looks like they’re counting by hand, one at a time.

“Thank you very much for all your hard work, everyone. It’s really a huge help to me, that I’m able to leave all the work to you guys.” [Ryouma]
“There’s no such thing, you know? After all, this store is treating us really well~” [Jeanne]
“Exactly, Ryouma-sama. Being able to do this much, is only a given, since we were hired as workers after all.” [Carm]

At Carm-san’s words, everyone in the room nodded. Karla-san, who was behind me, also nodded.

“I see. Thank you for that. Then, shall we continue? You were counting these coins, right?” [Ryouma]
“Yes. However, just with us, alone, it should be fine…” [Carm]
“The more hands, the better. Besides, this is a huge amount.” [Ryouma]

Today’s earning is 26,036 suits. And all of that is in small and medium copper coins. In other words, 1 suit, and 10 suits. That’s why it’s only natural, that there’d be so many copper coins.

“Then in that case, please, over here…” [Carm]
“There’s a spot beside me, Ryouma-sama.” [Fei]
“Excuse me.” [Ryouma]

I sit beside Fei-san, and begin counting the copper coins. Still, this is taking quite a bit of time… If you include me, with all 8 of us, the work should go faster, but…

And then, after around a minute of working like that, something hit me. Or rather, I remembered. There was that thing that could be found in a bank, wasn't it?

I quickly take out a bag of quicklime. As I did that, the other seven looked at me. Without minding them, I used 'Identify' on a small copper coin. What is the diameter and the thickness of this coin?

> Small Copper Coin; 1 Suit
>
> The smallest coin; made out of copper. Diameter: 0.9cm; Thickness: 2mm

Alright! I've changed my opinion. I might actually be able to use this new 'Identify'.

"Boss? What are you doing? Using 'Identify' on the coin… are you actually checking for counterfeit money?" [Fei]
"No, I just thought I'd make a tool." [Ryouma]
"Tool?" [Fei]
"Please look. 'Create Block'." [Ryouma]

Using 'Create Block' I transform the quicklime, into an oblong building stone. But I made the insides of the building stone, hollow, turning it into some sort of box. I remove one end of the box with 'Break Rock', with this, if you incline it, then the object inside will fall.

Furthermore, I use earth magic on the part that has become hollow, and cause a 5x10 square, with each grid extending 1 cm in all directions, to swell and make lines. The height of the swollen part is 2mm. With this, one copper coin can enter one grid.

When I used 'Identify', this is what happened.

> Building Stone (Quicklime) Length: 14cm Width: 7cm Height: 1cm
>
> Quicklime that has been hardened with earth magic. The shape has been warped according to its maker's will.

Good, it's a success!

"Boss, what is that?' [Carm]
"You use this, like this." [Ryouma]

As I said that, I put the two copper coins I was holding, inside the building stone. I pin down the end, and shake it, left and right. The coins made a jingling sound, and when all the coins fitted into the grids, I let go of the part I was holding, and the coins that couldn't fit into a grid, went back to the mountain of copper coins. After that, I had Fei-san count the copper coins that managed to fit into the grids of the building stone.

"Fei-san, can you count these copper coins?" [Ryouma]
"Alright, I'll count them." [Fei]

And so, Fei-san began to count. When Fei-san got close to finishing, his eyes gave a piercing gaze.

“50 pieces. Exactly 50 pieces. Boss, you made another convenient tool, huh?” [Fei]

As Fei-san said that, Carm-san, Karla-san, and Li Ling-san all noticed the advantage of using this building stone. The 3 girls didn’t seem to notice, though. So I had them count, next. I quickly put in, the copper coins, shake it, and then distribute the remaining copper coins to the three.

“Umm… it’s 50.” [Jeanne]
“50.” [Maria]
“It’s 50 here, too. How come?’ [Fina]
“Currencies are generally decided by their thickness and size. So exactly 50 pieces are able to fit in the grid, within the building stone. In other words, if you put small copper coins into this, it will be exactly 50 pieces.” [Ryouma]
“Amazing!” [Fina]
“Ryouma-sama, could you also make that for us?” [Carm]
“Of course.” [Ryouma]
“Eh? Eh??” [Jeanne]

Looks like one of the 3 girls, Jeanne, still couldn’t get it. These guys are clearly hardworking people, but it would appear that they’re bad at thinking. Well, it looks like I was at least able to make Fina-san and Maria-san understand the benefits of this. And so, the two began explaining to Jeanne about the building stone.

I went back to the bag of quicklime, and used ‘Create Block’ to make several building blocks, and then distributed it to the others. After that, I also used ‘Identify’ on the medium copper coin, and then made several building blocks that can fit a hundred medium copper coins, and then distributed them as well.

The result of that was that we were able to proceed smoothly. And without even taking 10 minutes, we managed to count everything. When we finished counting, I noticed that it was mostly small copper coins. I thought there would be more medium copper coins, but as it turns out, there’re more customers that pay with the small copper coin.

After that, I asked about the state of the store. Like, if there’s anything troubling them or something.

“Something troubling?” [Maria]
“There’s nothing in particular, right guys? ~” [Jeanne]
“This store treats us well, so naturally, we won’t have any complaints.” [Fina]
“Anyone who would have the galls to complain while working in a store like this, is just too spoiled.” [Fei]
“Really? Isn’t the salary too chea–!!” [Ryouma]

Not good. I forgot to give them a rest day! What employee benefits!? I actually made them work without letting them rest!

“What’s wrong, boss? Your face suddenly became pale.” [Fei]
“… I forgot about giving you guys a rest day.” [Ryouma]

When everyone heard my words, they doubted their ears. And then, Jeanne-san yelled.

“Boss! You couldn’t possibly be thinking of going so far as to even give us a rest day!?” [Jeanne]

Eh, what’s with this reaction… isn’t that a given? Well, it’s not really something I should say after I forgot about it, but… As I take a better look, everyone seemed to be same, and was giving me looks of surprise.

"I think it would be better if you guys had at least one rest day in a week. Have a fixed holiday, once every week, and then by alternating with someone…" [Ryouma]

When I said that, the three girls suddenly became really happy. I was a bit confused at that reaction, and so Karla-san explained it to me.

"Boss, amongst those who leave their homes to work, there aren't many who are able to get rest. In the case where they don't possess a certain ability, they get exploited, and are even paid poorly. But, in this store, it's completely different. Not only are they treated well, they are even given a high salary. With these kind of conditions, it's only normal to assume that they won't be given any rest days." [Karla]
"Moreover, not having a rest day is not only limited to workers that came from somewhere far. Even small stores and groceries, don't have any rest day except for special events. After all, if they were to give out rest days, then the management will have a harder time. So it isn't strange at all for there to no rest days." [Carm]

In other words, stores that can barely get by, huh? Well, there are those kind of stores, too.

"When we went out of our village, our parents apologized to us a lot, you know? 'Sorry for pushing this painful job to you.' they said." [Jeanne]
"I heard that if we were to be hired by someone bad, then forget about being paid dirt cheap and being exploited, even our chastity would be in danger." [Maria]

This world handles their employees pretty bad, huh? As I thought that, I looked over to Karla-san…

"Employers that pursue a physical relationship do go against the law, but unfortunately, there are employers that do such things. There's not that many of them, but still, as an employee, it's something that one needs to watch out for." [Karla]

Well, there was also sexual harassment in the previous world. So I guess this is one thing that won't change, regardless of whether you change worlds or not.

"My store treasures its employees, and aims for a healthy management. So everyone, please rest assured." [Ryouma]

When I said that, everyone broke into smiles, and said, "Please take care of us."

Regarding the rest day, they said that it's a waste to make it now, since we can't interrupt the flow of customers right now. So it was instead decided, that they would take a holiday in shifts, one day at a time.

While we were having that discussion, I noticed that the time was approaching 9 o'clock, so I bid everyone goodbye, and went back to the lodging. I ended up out late again, so I might get scolded.

When I got to the lodging, Elia and the others had already gotten home.

I leave my belongings in my room, and went to Elia's room.

There, I heard from Sebasu-san and Rheinbach-sama, that they were welcomed by the public office, today. Several scandalous things had happened, so from the looks of things, it seems that they were trying to curry favor.

Naturally though, such a thing wouldn't have any effect. And in the end, it turned into Rheinbach-sama giving a sermon to the people in charge.

Several of the top brasses of the public office had already been arrested and fired. And as for the others, they had their pay reduced. But on top of all that, people were hired to manage the members of the public office, including the new heads. Looks like, from here on, the public office will be strictly managed by those guys.

When I asked whether those guys were from the village.

"Well, the town obviously lacks people to manage the town, so…" [Sebasu]
"Unless, we more or less beat the guts of a decent person into them, and train them, we won't be able to supplement the town with enough usable man power. After all, there's a limit to the number of people that we can really trust." [Rheinbach]

Is how he replied. Makes sense…

By the way, because Elia was apparently given wine, she is already sound asleep. Even during my store's opening party, despite having only drunk one glass, her face became flushed. It seems she isn't very good with alcohol.

Rheinhart-san and the Madam also seem to be asleep already, so I decided not to overstay and cause them trouble, so I left.

Chapter 17

TL Note: Here's your first chapter for the day. In other news, I just found out how to customize the URL today [7-20-2015]. (￣ー￣)ﾆﾔﾘｯ.

The Next Day.

“Ugh, ughh… my, my head… It, hurts…” [Rheinhart]

I couldn’t see Elia and the others yesterday, so when I woke up today, I went over to their room to check up on them. There, I saw Rheinhart-san, suffering from a hangover.

“Ara, good morning, Ryouma-kun.” [Madam]
“Good morning, everyone.” [Ryouma]
“Ryouma-kun…” [Rheinhart]
“Looks painful. Should I make you some medicine?” [Ryouma]
“Mind if I ask you to…?” [Rheinhart]
“No problem.” [Ryouma]

Using warp, I went over to different stores to buy the things I need. First, I dropped by at the chemist to buy the ingredients. Then I went to the grocery to look for a fruit. When I found it, I bought it and went back to the lodging. As soon as I got back, I immediately concocted the medicine, and a fruit juice that can be drunk with it.

“Here, please drink this. Then afterwards, please drink some water.” [Ryouma]

It would’ve been great if I was able to buy some Japanese persimmons, or some of the clams used for miso soup though. There were plenty of other-worlders in this world, so there should probably be some somewhere, right? I guess I’ll go looking for it next time.

“Th… thanks…I’ll drink it…” [Rheinhart]
“I think it would be better if you don’t drink alcohol too much, Rheinhart-san.” [Ryouma]
“I’m ashamed… yesterday was… ugh… it hurts…” [Rheinhart]

From what I’d gathered after listening to the groaning Rheinhart-san. It would appear that in order to curry favor, some of the people in charge continued to give them liquor and extravagant food, one after another.

The madam may have been fine, but Elia was a different story. Elia had only just recently become able to drink alcohol legally, and was still not used to it. Because of this, she was not able to pace herself. That’s why there were also people who tried to stop them from making her drink too much, but because some were just too persistent, Rheinhart-san ended up drinking a lot in her place.

When I heard that, I became worried. Elia, are you alright with that kind of stuff? When you grow up, won’t that kind of stuff increase? I’m alright, since I won’t get hangovers or end up dead drunk because of Tekun-sama’s divine protection. And while I don’t know how much alcohol my body can take, I still have my experience from my previous life.

Speaking of which, should I test how much I can drink with this body? While I was thinking that, I saw Rheinhart-san drink the medicine and the juice. Seeing that, I left the lodging.

It’s a bit late, but I’ll go to store. And then, after checking the store a bit, I left.

Afterwards, I decided to also go to the abandoned mine, since there's something I wanted to try out. And along the way, also catch some slimes.

But before going, I thought I'd go to the guild to get an herb collection quest, since it's pretty convenient to collect the herbs along the way.

"Hello, Meilin-san." [Ryouma]
"Ara, Ryouma-kun. Are you here to take a request?" [Meilin]
"Yes, since the employees have already become capable enough to take care of the shop on their own." [Ryouma]
"To think that you're actually already able to have your own store and hire people at your age, you're quite the successful little boy, aren't you?" [Meilin]
"It's because my luck is good." [Ryouma]
"Really? Ah, while this isn't a request, I think it might be good for you to hear this." [Meilin]

Not a request?

"What are you talking about?" [Ryouma]
"Actually, there's a party of five adventurers that came from a different village. But the thing is that party actually came here to bring a rare slime they caught." [Meilin]

What!?

"Can I hear more regarding that?" [Ryouma]
"Catching a rare beast, or providing information regarding the locations frequented by rare beasts, will normally get one a sizeable reward from the tamer guild. And so, that party went to the tamer guild with a rare slime they'd caught, and they tried to sell it. But let alone be compensated poorly for the rare slime, their hopes for a transaction weren't even entertained. Because they're still young, it would appear that they weren't privy to the fact that despite being rare, almost all types of slime aren't purchased. Your heal slimes are a different story though. Anyway, in the end, that party, having spent a lot of money to come here, looks to be at a complete loss on what to do." [Meilin]

"In other words, you want me to buy that slime from them?" [Ryouma]
"Exactly. Well, what do you think? Want it?" [Meilin]
"Yes, very much. Could you tell me where that group is staying at?" [Ryouma]
"They're staying at a cheap inn over at the east district, called Badger Inn. And the name of their group is, 'Bridge of Scheme'." [Meilin]
"Thank you very much. I'll go now." [Ryouma]

I immediately left the guild, and hurriedly went towards the Badger Inn.

I was able to easily find the Badger Inn, but… from looking outside, it looks really worn out. What is this supposed to be? An abandoned building? Anyway, for the meantime, let's try to enter…

When I entered the inn, the man at the counter bluntly said, "Welcome. You a customer?"
"I have business with the 'Bridge of Scheme' that's supposed to be staying here. Are they here?" [Ryouma]
"They are." [Man]

As he said that, he pointed towards the door to the right.

"They're eating over there at the bar that doubles as a cafeteria. One of them has been drinking since daytime while complaining, so watch yourself." [Man]
"Thank you very much." [Ryouma]

A bit blunt, but he's a nice guy. I open the door, and enter the cafeteria. When I got inside, there were only five customers. Seeing that, I immediately understood that they're the party Meilin was talking about. All of them looked to be around the latter half of their tens.

"Excuse me, are you the members of the party known as, 'Bridge of Scheme'?" [Ryouma]

"Mn? And you are?" [Adventurer]
"Please excuse the late introduction, my name is Ryouma Takebayashi. I am a slave magic user and an adventurer." [Ryouma]
"Hah! You? A brat like you is an adventurer?" [Adventurer]
"Stop it, Thayne. Sorry, this guy's mood is a bit bad…" [Adventurer 2]
"I heard that you brought a rare slime with you, and failed when you tried to sell it to the guild." [Ryouma]
"Yeah, and what…" [Adventurer 2]
"Hahhh!!? Then what, bitch? You came here to pick a fight!?" [Thayne]

The guy called Thayne, stood up, and walked towards me. But his party members stopped him.

"No, I didn't come here to pick a fight." [Ryouma]
"What? Then I guess you came here to make fun of us, huh!? For even a brat like this… fuck this shit!! Yeah, that's right! We're morons! We thought we'd make a killing by selling a rare magical beast, and we even went so far as to spend a lot of money just to get here. And in the end we couldn't even sell it and made a huge loss instead!! But why do we have to be made fun of by a bitch like you!!?" [Thayne]

As Thayne said that, he broke down crying. Looks like he's completely drunk. A bad case of persecution complex to go with it too.

"Thayne" [Adventurer 2]
"Calm down" [Adventurer 3]
"I'll take Thayne to the room. He can't talk like this after all." [Adventure 4]
"I'll go too." [Adventurer 5]

The two men, who I'm unacquainted with, took Thayne to their room.

"Let's do this again. We are the 'Bridge of Scheme', and I'm their leader, Shin." [Adventurer 2]
"And I'm Gai. Sorry about Thayne." [Adventurer 3]
"It's fine." [Ryouma]
"Thanks. Then, what business do you have with us?" [Shin]

Oh, right. That's what's important! Who cares about whether there's a drunk or not!

"Just as I've mentioned a while ago, I would like to purchase the slime." [Ryouma]
"That slime?" [Shin]
"I'm happy that you want to buy the slime, but why? We were laughed at a lot by the tamer guild, you know?" [Gai]
"It's because I'm gathering slimes and researching them. Because of that, I want to acquire rare slimes." [Ryouma]
"You're gathering slimes? That's quite odd. But just as Gai had mentioned, we'd be grateful if you took it off our hands." [Shin]
"So you'll let me purchase it, then? How much will it be?" [Ryouma]
"Right… how about you decide. After all, we were told by the tamer guild that a price can't be attached to it, so it's quite difficult for us to name a price." [Shin]
"As long as you can pay it, anything's fine. After all, we're leaving tomorrow anyway." [Gai]

“Is that so? Then, could you show me that slime? If it’s one of the slimes I’m already raising, then I’ll buy it cheaply. But if it’s not, then I’ll pay plenty for it.” [Ryouma]
“Alright, that’s fine.” [Shin]
“Give me a sec, I’ll bring it out now.” [Gai]

As Gai said that, he stood up from his seat, and came back with a box after 3 seconds.

“There’s a slime inside this. Carefully take a look.” [Gai]
“Excuse me.” [Ryouma]

I open the lid while being careful, and took a look at the slime in there.

That slime was dark red. And compared to normal slimes, its body was a lot more muddy and closer to liquid. After I’d confirmed that, I closed the lid.

“How is it?” [Shin]
“It’s not one of the slimes I’m raising, so I’ll put a high price on it… Excuse me for asking, but may I know how much you’ve spent until now?” [Ryouma]
“Around 5,000 suits. We cut as much as we could on our expenses, but we couldn’t cut it any further than this.” [Shin]

Hearing that, I took out a small gold coin from my ‘Item Box’.

“Then in that case, I’ll pay double of that for 10,000 suits.” [Ryouma]

When they heard that, the two couldn’t help but be flustered.

“Seriously!?” [Gai]
“Is it really ok to buy a slime for 1 small gold coin?” [Shin]
“Of course. After all, it’s thanks to everyone that I’ll be able to acquire a new slime.” [Ryouma]

There’s nothing regrettable about getting a new slime for 1 small gold coin!

“I, I see… we don’t have any complaints here either.” [Shin]
“Then in that case, please take this.” [Ryouma]

I hand over the small gold coin to Shin-san.

“Certainly.” [Shin]
“Then, I’ll be taking this slime. Thank you very much.” [Ryouma]
“The one who should be thanking is us.” [Gai]
“With this, our concerns regarding money will be gone. I guess Thayne should calm down too.” [Shin]

Well, it’s not like I don’t understand how that guy feels… after all, there was also a time where I didn’t have any money, and was extremely worried. Speaking of which, isn’t there a lucrative request that should be coming out soon?

“By the way, if you want to make some money, then I think it’ll be better if you stay in the town for a bit longer. From what I hear, there’s an outbreak of a certain monster that will occur in a nearby swamp. And apparently. that monster can be sold as ingredients for a high price. As long as you’re able to ignore the stench, then it should reap you plenty of profits.” [Ryouma]
“Really?” [Shin]
“Yes, please confirm it at the guild. And while I’m not privy to the exact date of the outbreak, it should be soon.” [Ryouma]

“You’ve saved us!” [Gai]
“Thanks for the information. Isn’t there anyway we can repay you?” [Shin]

I don’t really need any thanks though. Oh right. Since it’s like this, I could try advertising.

“Then in that case, please come over to my store. As a sideline, I opened up a laundry agency… though it turned out to become way bigger than a sideline.” [Ryouma]
“Laundry agency?” [Shin]
“Yes. You can get whatever clothes that fit into a bag, bought from the store for 1 medium copper coin, washed. Moreover, there’s a special option for adventurers that will clean armor and equipment, for only 1 medium copper coin and 5 small copper coins.” [Ryouma]
“There was such a store?” [Gai]
“Alright. It’s cheap too, so we’ll give it a shot.” [Shin]
“Thank you very much. The store is located at the east district, before the residential area. There’s also a lot of adventurers that come, so if you’re lost, just ask someone and you should find the way.” [Ryouma]
“We’ll definitely go.” [Gai]
“Thanks for everything.” [Shin]

I took the stone box, left the Badger Inn, and then headed towards the abandoned mine. After all, that’s the best place to perform slime research. I also won’t have to pay attention to my surroundings.

The first thing I did when I got to the abandoned mine, was to start the production of the waterproof cloth. Today’s quota is 50 sheets. I’m here anyway, so if I don’t do it now, it’ll be my loss.

After I finished that, I went to tame the slime. I gently open the lid of the stone box, gazed at the slime, and then contracted with it. Afterwards, I used ‘Monster Identify’ on it. At which, this came out:

Bloody Slime

Skills
- Bloodsucking Lv4
- Deodorization Lv3
- Disease Resistance Lv3
- Poison Resistance Lv1
- Act Dead Lv10
- Digestion Lv2
- Absorption Lv4
- Split Lv1

Bloody Slime, huh? It also possesses a ‘Bloodsucking’ skill, so its meal is definitely blood. On top of that, ‘Deodorization’ and ‘Disease Resistance’, and while its level is low, it also possesses ‘Poison Resistance’. And then, what is this ‘Act Dead’ skill? ‘Act Dead’, as in… it fakes being dead? … Well, it’s a skill, so it’s not like I have any complaints.

The problem is its feed. Since its feed is blood, I wonder what I should do.

“I guess I’ll hunt a suitable magical beast.” [Ryouma]

I order the slimes to play by themselves without going too far, then I take the bloody slime with me to go hunting.

When the slimes got my orders, there were dozens of slimes who took out some staff and spears for practice purposes, and started practicing.

… Looks like there were some zealous slimes…

Several slimes assembled and started practicing the staff techniques, spear techniques, and Taijutsu I had taught them. The slimes performed the techniques I thought them, form after form, learning by rote. And then, there were also slimes that sparred against each other. It feels like their movements are gradually becoming better.

While I was thinking that, I went off with the bloody slime to find some prey. And after some time, I found a horn rabbit.

I took out a bow and arrow from my 'Item Box', then with one hit I felled the horn rabbit. Afterwards, I went over to the corpse of the horn rabbit, and I let the bloody slime eat. When the bloody slime got my order, it slid closer to the horn rabbit's corpse, and then it began to suck the blood coming from the wound.

Bloodsucking, huh? Well, there're also living beings that sucked blood back in Earth. Like, mosquitoes or fleas… Come to think of it, there was also a bird that drank blood, right? I guess it feels something like that…!?

While I was observing the bloody slime, I tried to form a conjecture regarding its ecology. But while I was doing that, the bloody slime, whose body was already closer to liquid than other slimes, made its body even more like liquid, then it entered the horn rabbit's body.

"It entered the body through the wound?" [Ryouma]

Unexpected…

To start off with, the bloody slime's body was already not sticky, making it different from the other slimes. But now it started to become even less muddy as it became silky like liquid. And like that, it entered the blood vessels of the horned rabbit, and stuck itself to the blood as it sucked it.

"This nature is again quite different as opposed as to the other slimes. There was actually a slime like this…" [Ryouma]

While I was being shocked by the bloody slime's behavior, the bloody slime went out from inside the horn rabbit's body… Its color was dark red, as if someone had just blown out blood or something. It's a little ghastly.

After I confirmed that the bloody slime had fully gotten out, I used 'Identify' on the corpse of the horn rabbit.

How is it?

> Horn Rabbit (Corpse)
>
> It is possible to extract the horn, the meat, and the pelt. Because it was felled in one shot by the nock of an arrow, the horn and the pelt have received little damage, and are thus, considered a high quality commodity.
> It has also had its blood drained as soon as it was killed, causing the foul smell to decrease. Because of this, the meat is considered to be a high quality commodity.

I get the horn and the pelt, but what's up with the meat? Drain? Is it referring to the bloody slime's 'Bloodsucking'? It's that, right? I can't think of anything else aside from that. But while it's good that it's a high class commodity, it doesn't have any diseases, right?

As I thought that, I used 'Identify' another time to look for diseases. Seeing that there were none, I was relieved. As an adventurer and as a hunter, I think this ability is really convenient.

When I got back to the mine, I took apart the horn rabbit's body. When I tried cooking and eating it, I found out that its stench had really gone down, and has become really delicious. The stench disappearing might also have something to do with its 'Deodorization' skill.

… Does this mean that in order to make a slime evolve into a bloody slime, I'll have to make it drink blood?

"Then I guess, I'll have to gather some blood… but how? It's not like I could go harvest a huge amount of beasts and magical beasts from around here…" [Ryouma]

If I mobilize the slimes, then I should be able to gather a significant amount. But then, the ecosystem here might be affected. And I'll also end up ruining other adventurer's jobs.

"Oh, I got it! I should try talking to Zeke-san." [Ryouma]

Zeke-san is a butcher. Since it seems he also buys meat from adventurers, it might be possible to have him drain and put aside some blood for me. I should talk to him when I get back.

After that, I went back to the abandoned mine. At which, I suddenly remembered that I had forgotten to capture some slimes. So I went around looking for some slimes, and in the end I was able to catch 3 from the tunnels.

After I had tamed them, the cloths still weren't finished drying. So I decided to try out an experiment.

Chapter 18

TL Note: Second chapter for the day. Made possible by one of the two anons who donated and filled the queue by themselves. Much thanks, anon.

I steady my breath, then I release magic power towards the three slimes before me.

That magic power caused the slimes to shake and jump. Because it can't be seen, if someone were to see this, they'd just assume that the slimes were shaking.

But because I have the 'Magic Perception' skill, I know what's happening. The slimes are reacting to the magic power, and are absorbing it little by little.

"As expected…" [Ryouma]

I thought of this when I saw the slime's evolution yesterday. That time, the slime released magic power, and then it absorbed it. And because the heal slimes were able to use healing magic, I knew that the slimes definitely possessed magic power.

I think the reason the slime can evolve to heal slime, is because of healing magic. Following that train of thought, if I used fire magic and ice magic, then I should also be able to make a slime according to that, right? Or so I thought before, and at that time I failed, but… what about now?

That time, I used magic several times to no effect. And with offensive magic, the slimes would only end up hurt, so I stopped. But what about this?

I release magic a second time. This time I release it while visualizing the magic power as if it's burning up, just like when I use fire magic. The image one comes up with is different from person to person, but by doing this, one who possesses neutral magic power will be able to change that magic power into that of the fire element. Whether one is able to do this or not depends on the person, but it also depends on the attribute one possesses.

Normally, when I change the attribute of my magic power, I'll end up firing off magic at the same time, but just right before that, I stop myself and release it as only magic power.

"Doing this is more sensitive than using magic normally." [Ryouma]

As I kept releasing magic like that towards the slimes, the slimes slowly began to absorb magic power, slowly.

When I tried changing the attributes after that, I understood that two out of three of the slimes, liked earth attribute. And one of them preferred dark attribute.

After that, while waiting for the cloths to dry, I continued to give the three slimes magic power until I almost ran out. It would be great if I could make the slimes evolve like this… anyway, there's no harm to the slimes, so I guess I'll keep this up.

After that, I took a break, and when the cloths finished drying, I went back to the town, and headed towards Zeke's store. When I got there, a boy around 14 or 15, greeted me.

"Welcome! May I know what kind of meat you're looking for?" [Boy]
"Excuse me, I have business with your boss." [Ryouma]
"I see. Boss! There's a customer who's looking for you!" [Boy]

At those words, Zeke-san, who was covered in blood, came out.

Pale skin, and thin to the point where he looks sick. On top of that, blood-stained clothes… Looking at this person, he's quite scary, although in a different way from Wogan.

"Well, if it isn't Ryouma-kun. What business do you have?" [Zeke]
"Actually…" [Ryouma]

I explained the situation.

"There was a slime like that? Alright, then in that case you can take as much blood as you want from my store. Since, I won't be using them anyway." [Zeke]
"Thank you very much." [Ryouma]
"Do you need it now? I have a lot right now, since some young adventurers brought a lot of spoils with them." [Zeke]
"I'll take it then. Thank you very much." [Ryouma]

I entered Zeke-san's workplace. In there, five men were working. Alongside the wall, there was a joist with many hooks attached to it. On those, several beasts hang by a cord, as it was drained of its blood.

"Over here." [Zeke]

I was brought to two big containers that were right underneath the beasts. Inside those were all of the beast's blood. That container was nearly as long as the room, itself.

"Thank you very much. Is it ok if let the slime drink this?" [Ryouma]
"Go ahead." [Zeke]

After getting permission, I let the bloody slime go inside the container. In the blink of an eye, the bloody slime sucked in all of the blood.

The men who were working also told me, that it was convenient for them. Apparently, they need to get rid of all these blood when it gets full, but doing that is a hassle. And even if it's not full, they still have to wash it thoroughly. So it's quite convenient for them to have it cleaned like this, since on top of being big, it's quite heavy.

"When a big game comes, just like today, it take a lot of effort just to drain all of the blood." [Zeke]
"I see." [Ryouma]

After that, Zeke-san told me to come whenever I need blood. On top of that, I also got some spoiled meats and bones. It would have just been thrown away, so Zeke-san generously gave these to me. With this, I've managed to secure some feed for the scavenger slimes and the acid slimes.

Thank you, Zeke-san. After that, I left Zeke-san's store…

"Walk briskly!" [Man]
"It hurts!" [Man 2]
"What are ya bitches looking at, huh!?" [Man]
"This ain't a show!" [Man 3]
"Shut up and walk!! [Man]

From my store, I saw some ill-bred men leave as they were escorted by the guards. Did something happen!?

I hurriedly enter my store, and when I got there, the employees were gathered.

"Is everyone ok!?" [Ryouma]
"Ah, Boss!" [Carm]
"I happened to pass by chance, and I notice some guys were being escorted by the guards. Is everyone alright?" [Ryouma]
"We're alright~, and no one was injured either. ~" [Jeanne]
"Fei-san stopped them, all by himself!" [Maria]
"Really? Thank you very much, Fei-san." [Ryouma]
"Don't mind. This is also a part of my job." [Fei]

"Fei-san and Li Ling-san were the guards of this store, huh? We didn't know that at all." [Fina]
"Well, it's because there was no need to talk about it." [Fei]
"You really saved us today. Fei-san and Li Ling were, of course, a great help. And because Ryouma-sama employed the two of you, the store, the employees, and all the customers were unharmed." [Karla]
"Oh, no, no. I didn't do anything at all." [Ryouma]

After all, I got there when everything had already ended.

As I was thinking that, Li Ling-san said, "Boss, I have something I need to talk about with you. It's about a countermeasure that will be necessary from here on out."

Being told that, I went with her inside the store, along with Carm-san and Karla-san, while the store was left to Fei-san and the three girls.

When we got to the office, she began to talk.

"Although I say it's a countermeasure, there's nothing particularly wrong with the way things are now. As long as my dad is around, there won't be any problems. If it's just something along the likes of ill-bred ruffians, then my dad can handle it all by himself. But there's something I want to ask Boss. Boss, do you remember anyone holding a grudge against you?" [Li Ling]
"Someone who hates me?" [Ryouma]
"It seems that those ruffians were hired by someone. While waiting for the guards to arrive, we used some truth serum to make them spill the beans, so it's definitely correct." [Li Ling]

Hearing that, I tried thinking about it, and…

"I once had a dispute with an adventurer group of 40 people, and I beat them up… And then, there's that guild master from the tamer guild who seems to hate me." [Ryouma]

I guess it's possible that they hold a grudge. And then there's Matthew. But while I don't think there's any reason for him to hate me…

"Then in that case, I think the suspicious one is the guild master. The ruffians did say that they were paid quite a bit. The amount they were paid wasn't something you'd pay to a ruffian, even if there were a few of them. There might be someone who would pay that much, even at the cost of being able to live. But then, the number of people who would do such a thing is exceedingly small." [Li Ling]
"The ruffians today, quarreled with the customers, and started ranting with a loud voice." [Carm]
"Fei-san, being cautious of that, subdued them, but…" [Karla]

Certainly, that isn't the kind of act you'd pay someone at the cost of your own lifestyle. After all, if such a person hated me that much, he'd personally come to hurt me, right?

“Then in that case, it’s Matthew, huh?” [Ryouma]
“Is that the name of the guild master of the tamer guild?” [Carm]
“Yes. He looked down on the fact, that I haven’t tamed any monster aside from slimes. And because I have a relationship with the duke, he’s quite envious of me.” [Ryouma]
“Well, that kind of person can be found anywhere… While we haven’t confirmed whether that man is the culprit or not, we should take some precautions.” [Karla]
“It’s good that the ruffians knew, but it looks like the other side’s also being careful not to be found out.” [Li Ling]
“If our profits were to get out, then this kind of thing will more or less happen. There’s nothing else to it, aside from preparing, and dealing with it each time it happens.” [Ryouma]

The discussion proceeded like this. First, Karla-san and Carm-san will go to the merchant guild, and inform the guild master about today’s incident. As for me, I’ll let the duke know of what happened today.

And then, from today onwards, Fei-san and Li Ling-san will be in charge of the security during the day. During the night, I’ll release the slimes to patrol the premises and the store. Like this, we were able to finalize our course of action.

When I got back to the lodging, I talked to Rheinhart-san. But because he wanted me to hire some guards using his influence, it almost became a serious matter.

The ones he wanted me to hire immediately were all either former soldiers or knights. They were all apparently veterans who had retired after suffering a wound, but unfortunately, those are not the kind of people that my store would hire. Incidentally, one of the people he wanted to introduce me to was a former leader of the knights. Apparently, he was Rheinbach-sama’s comrade in arms… you think I can hire someone like that!!?

We took some time negotiating, and after a while, it was decided that it’ll be under observation for now.

Come to think of it, I inadvertently ignored it, but Li Ling-san actually even had truth serum with her… Well, she’s dependable, so whatever.

I guess I’ll retire for the day.

Chapter 19

TL Note: Here's your third and last chapter of the day. Brought to you by, the other anon who donated and filled up a queue by himself. A round of applause for anon, everyone.

The Next Day.

"Ryouma-san, are you awake?" [Elia]

Early in the morning, Elia came over to visit me in my room. Sebasu-san was also with her.

"What's the matter?" [Ryouma]
"I'm going to be instructed by my father regarding slave magic. Would you like to come as well?" [Elia]

Slave magic, huh? ... Come to think of it, the only things I can use in regards to slave magic, are the contract and the 'Monster Identify'. And then, there's the 'Contract Release'… are there any other magic aside from these? Well, I have time, so why don't I go and see? But then, there's also that incident with the ruffians yesterday…

While I was thinking that, Sebasu-san came over and whispered to my ear.

"It's a bit sudden, but I heard Ryouma-sama has been able to get some free time lately. Since there's some time, won't Ryouma-sama please consider going out with the Ojousama? After all, it's been decided that she will be separating from Ryouma-sama soon. So I want to create as much time as possible for the two of you. I've also already arranged for someone to watch over your employees today." [Sebasu]

Ah~… Now that he mentions it, it's certainly true that ever since I'd decided to go independent, I've been spending my time with matters regarding the store, and because of that, I haven't been able to make any time for Elia… She's also concerned about her colossal magic power, so she's probably quite happy to have been able to make a friend. I guess I did something bad…

"I understand. Then, shall we go learn together?" [Ryouma]
"Really!?" [Elia]

As Elia said that, she gave off a dazzling smile.

For some reason, I feel guilty. Or rather, since I didn't notice that I was wrong until I was told, I guess I am at fault…

After that, I went to the store once, to let the employees know about this. With a smile they replied, "Leave it to us!" even though something like that had happened yesterday, they haven't uttered a word of complaint. Really, what a nice bunch. I'm glad to have hired them.

After that, we went to the abandoned mine. From the looks of things, our training area will be here, in the abandoned mine.

And right now, standing before me and Elia, is the Madam, who is holding a bird cage.

"Well then, let's begin the training for slave magic. First, what is a slave magic user? Elia?" [Madam]
"A slave magic user is someone who contracts with a magical beast, and uses magic to borrow the power of the magical beast. When performing the slave monster contract, a connection is formed between the magical beast and the practitioner via magic power. Because of that, it is possible to come to understand each other." [Elia]
"Precisely. And what we're going to be teaching you two today, is a magic that takes advantage of that connection. This magic is known as 'Sensory Link'. Just as the name implies, this is magic that allows the practitioner and the magical beast to share senses, and in this way acquire information. This magic is mainly used to warn the magical beast that the practitioner is in danger." [Madam]
"This is something that conjuration can't accomplish. So it's something unique to slave magic users." [Rheinhart]

Really?

"Why can't conjurers use this ability?' [Ryouma]
"In general, the conjuration contract forcibly makes the magical beast submit through the use of magic. Even if there's a connection, it's one sided." [Rheinhart]

So that's how it is… I don't know much about matters concerning conjuration.

"I see. So that's how it is." [Ryouma]
"There's a need to get used to 'Sensory Link'. The longer you've been helping each other, and the deeper your understanding is with your slave monster, then the clearer the connection will be. Today, we prepared a magical beast inside this bird cage for you two. Contract with it, then we'll have you guys practice." [Rheinbach]
"Why go all the way to get a new magical beast? Isn't it possible with a slime?" [Ryouma]
"True, it's definitely possible to use 'Sensory Link' with the slimes. However, the effect is hard to grasp, and there's no meaning to it." [Rheinhart]
"Since slimes don't have nose, ears, and eyes, even if you use 'Sensory Link', you won't be able to understand sight, hearing, smell, and even taste. And I also don't know how you're supposed to understand your surroundings with that."

Certainly, that would definitely make it hard to understand the effect.

"I understand." [Elia]

And so, me and Elia went over to the bird cage and contracted with the magical beast inside, called Crew Bird. Oh, speaking of which, this is my first time contracting with a magical beast other than a slime!

When I noticed that, I became a little nervous. But without anything going wrong, the contract ended safely.

"Looks like you were able to contract them. Then next, become aware of the connection you have between you and your magical beast. Once you've done that, strongly visualize an image where you're looking through the eyes of your magical beast. If you can do that, then even without any incantations, you'll be able to use, 'Sensory Link'." [Madam]

Being told that, I used a camera connected to a TV as my image. When I did so, an image flowed through the back of my head… but…

"Somehow, it feels kind of unpleasant…" [Ryouma]

The sensation of having both my own field of vision, and the magical beast's field of vision, go inside my head at the same time is difficult to describe. But it's kind of like being forced to watch two TV screens at the same time, while having to understand it. It isn't something that feels very pleasant.

"Ara, Ryouma-kun, you've already succeeded?" [Madam]
"As expected of you. This is actually a difficult magic, because there are many people who find it difficult to

grasp the image." [Rheinbach]
"It's difficult so I wanted to teach it early, so you can take your time practicing it. But it looks like you've already managed to learn it. That unpleasant sensation after having just succeeded at 'Sensory Link' is something that every slave magic user has to go through. You'll manage as long as you practice, so do your best and get used to it. I suggest you start by closing your eyes, and focusing only on your slave monster's field of vision." [Rheinhart]

So I need to get used to it, huh? … Just like I was told, I close my eyes, and focus only on the field of vision of the magical beast. Yeah, this way is better than a while ago. The crew bird I'd just contracted with is currently standing on the ground, so the field of vision I'm seeing is extremely low. Because of that, it feels kind of out of place. But that's it. Aside from that, there's no other problem.

After that, I continued to practice for 2 hours. In the end, I was also able to order the crew bird to fly, while using 'Sensory Link' to see through the magical beast while it's in the sky. This ability is quite useful for scanning the surroundings.

While I was thinking that, it would appear that Elia had also succeeded at using 'Sensory Link'.

"This is… a rather unusual feeling." [Elia]

Looks like Elia is also feeling that sense of being out of place.

I thought this just now, but Elia is quite amazing, huh? I used my experience in Earth to grasp the image, but Elia actually had to start from scratch. Yet, she was able to learn it within the day. Amazing.

After Elia had succeeded once, we decided to take a short break, and Araune-san prepared us some tea.

"Still, you two did pretty well to be able to actually learn it this fast." [Rheinbach]
"Elia carries with her the lineage of Jamil, so I thought it'd be fast. But who would've thought that it would actually be to this extent. I also thought Ryouma-kun would have a hard time with it, but…" [Rheinhart]
"Isn't it fine? Like this, they were able to learn it easily without any problems. Now, all that's left is to train." [Madam]
"So that feeling is going to continue, huh?" [Elia]

Looks like, even with her eyes closed, Elia still finds it difficult to get used to that feeling. Well, you are suddenly having your vision changed and mixed, after all… It's still fine for me who thinks it's like watching television, but Elia is seeing things as if it's actually her own field of vision… Even if I teach her, she doesn't know about TVs, so she won't understand. I can't teach her. Do your best, Elia.

As we continued to discuss like that, the madam asked me, "Ryouma-kun, how's your first time contracting with a magical beast other than a slime? Does anything feel off?"
"There isn't anything in particular." [Ryouma]
"Then in that case, Ryouma might also have an aptitude for bird type magical beasts." [Madam]

Aptitude? What's she talking about?

"What's an aptitude?" [Ryouma]

The one who answered that question was Rheinhart-san.

"You didn't know? Slave magic users, and conjurers, all have their own respective aptitudes. What kind of magical beast one should tame, depends on the individual. And whether he should contract a lot of magical beasts or not. Then there're also those who can't contract with a lot of magical beasts, but are able to contract with several very powerful magical beasts. Ryouma-kun's aptitude with slimes is probably quite high. Otherwise, I don't think you'd be able to contract that many magical beasts." [Rheinhart]

"After you find out what your aptitude is, it's important to make sure what kind of magical beast you're suited for. Aptitude isn't strictly decided, it's something you have to vaguely understand by probing within yourself. For example, I have good aptitude with magical beasts that have scales. And while I can't contract with a lot of magical beasts, my magical beasts are individually strong." [Rheinbach]
"As for me, I have an aptitude for magical beasts that walk on four legs. On the other hand, I have absolutely zero aptitude for magical beasts of the bird type. And so, I can't contract with those." [Rheinhart]
"My aptitude is…" [Madam]

As the Madam said that, she suddenly chanted an incantation. As she did so, light began to radiate from her side, and all of the sudden, a wolf with silver fur appeared. I was slightly taken aback by that, but the Madam laughed and said that it was alright.

"Sorry for scaring you. This child is Rogue. My little fenrir, slave monster." [Madam]

Fenrir…? Isn't that, that thing that comes out in legends!?

"Ara, did you perhaps think that the Fenrir and a little fenrir were the same?" [Madam]
"Are they different?" [Ryouma]
"They are. Fenrir is a divine beast, but a little fenrir is a magical beast. Little fenrirs are wolf type magical beasts that can use a little bit of ice magic. But it's true that they're quite strong." [Madam]
"So that's how it is…" [Ryouma]

Little fenrirs are amazing… and the madam too, for being able to actually win it over. Right now that amazing little fenrir is being caressed by the madam. And as if the Madam's foot felt good, it began to turn over to its side.

"This child is the boss of its pack. I have 20 more little fenrirs. And then, I still have around 100 other wolf type magical beasts. I can do this since my aptitude with wolf type magical beasts is good." [Madam]

20 more beasts like this little fenrir!?

While it can't compare to the number of slimes I have, its quality is too different. And it's at a different league compared to the black bear's intimidating aura.

"It's because Elize is really skillful as a slave magic user. You normally can't make a little fenrir obey you just like that, you know? In fact, when I first met Elize in the past, I actually suffered from an inferiority complex." [Rheinhart]
"Ara, is that really true? Weren't you going around saying, 'I have my sword!' and without minding it, zealously tempered your sword arm? Also, I don't recall you having such a lack of talent for slave magic." [Madam]
"… If you compare me to you or to my father, I end up getting completely overshadowed." [Rheinhart]
"Even then, you don't really need to mind it that much. To begin with, as a kid you always neglected your training as a slave magic user, and was always fussing over your sword training instead. So tell me, are you still going to imply that it's my fault?" [Rheinbach]

Afterwards, Rheinbach-sama kept finding fault after fault with Rheinhart-san as he gave him a sermon. While listening to that, I looked at that little fenrir called Rogue as I thought to myself.

The Madam can make 20 and 100 of these wolf type magical beasts submit. For Rheinbach-sama to be considered at the same level as her, isn't that amazing? No, it's definitely amazing.

While I was thinking that, Elia called out to me.

"Ryouma-san, what are you thinking about?" [Elia]
"I just thought that Rheinbach-sama was pretty amazing, considering he's actually on the same level as the

Madam." [Ryouma]

When Elia heard that, she smiled. I wonder if it's because her family was praised. But when the Madam beside me heard my words, she denied it.

"Ryouma-kun, you're a little off there. Father-in-law and I are not of the same level. Father-in-law is in fact, on a level higher than me." [Madam]
"Really?" [Ryouma]
"That's right. I may have more slave monsters, but father-in-law's slave monsters are on a different level. He may not even have 20 of them, but if the adventurer's guild were to put up a subjugation request for those, each one of those magical beasts would be classified as an A rank magical beast. In fact, half of his slave monsters are dragons." [Madam]
"Dragons!?" [Ryouma]

I may have never seen a dragon, but I know that having close to 10 dragons, is something dangerous!! Moreover, all of them possess the power of a magical beast that's A Rank and up. And for one person to actually possess all that, that's overkill!! … Isn't Rheinbach-sama an even bigger cheat than I am?

"… What's the matter with dragons?" Asked Rheinbach-sama, when he heard my voice.

"I heard about Rheinbach-sama's slave monsters just now. Amazing. To think, that Rheinbach-sama would be able to tame several dragons." [Ryouma]
"In my case, I was just lucky. I may have also had the aptitude for it, but starting out with a dragon was really strong. I collected those kinds of dragons and I made them my slave monsters. As allies they're quite reassuring, but I can't call them out for petty things, otherwise it would cause a huge commotion." [Rheinbach]

Well that's true…

"Moreover, I'm nothing compared to the founder of slave magic, Shiho Jamil-sama. From what I'd heard, the founder didn't have any restrictions on the number of contracts that could be possessed. Moreover, the founder had an aptitude for all magical beasts, and was able to contract any kind of beast, regardless of how strong, or how hard they were to tame. And according to the records, the number of slave monsters the founder had couldn't be counted." [Rheinbach]

By founder, he's referring to an other-worlder, right? Then in that case, isn't the reason she was able to do that, because of her cheats? Although, from what I'd heard from Gayn and the others, she seemed to be a nice person.

For someone like me who understands that, I'm more interested in what Rheinbach-sama's dragons normally do, rather than any story about the founder.

"That Shiho-sama seems to be an amazing person, huh? … By the way, what do Rheinbach-sama's slave monsters normally do?" [Ryouma]
"They're staying in a mountain within my territory. It's a dangerous mountain because the magical beasts there are too strong. With no one coming there, I had them stay there while preventing the monsters from going down to human settlements." [Rheinbach]
"I see." [Ryouma]
"Slave magic users that possess powerful magical beasts have an inclination to have a problem with finding a place for those beasts to stay. So in the future, when you tame a powerful magical beast, and find it difficult to find a home for it, just let us know, ok?" [Rheinbach]
"Thank you very much." [Ryouma]

When I run out of space in my space magic, I'll talk to them about it.

Chapter 20

TL Note: The founder of slave magic is a woman. I forgot about it, and the last chapter didn't have any pronouns, so I just went with the default pronouns. I'll change the wordings to reflect that.

Our break ended, and we resumed the training… or so I thought we would, but apparently, our training for the day is already over.

"It's because you two have already learned how to use 'Sensory Link', so all that's left is for you two to practice on your own time. That's why, Ryouma-kun, right now you should just leisurely spend your time while you listen to Elia's performance. You might think that it's just because we're doting parents, but Elia's performance is actually really good." [Rheinhart]
"Performance? Why, all of the sudden?" [Ryouma]

What's going on?

"Do you remember the discussion we had regarding the rimel birds?" [Madam]
"Yes, it's the objective of everyone who comes here, right?" [Ryouma]
"That's right. After all, rimel birds are agile and have the ability to use wind magic. But because of that, it's difficult to catch one without hurting it. As a result, it's very rare to see one. But the rimel birds are a magical beast after all, so it can be tamed!" [Madam]

I see. Since it's possible, it makes one want to tame it… But then, what does that have to do with Elia's performance?

"Then, does the performance have anything to do with that?" [Ryouma]
"It has plenty do with it. If you want to tame a rimel bird, then music is a must." [Madam]

'Really?' I thought, at which Sebasu-san explained, "A rimel bird possesses a sizeable amount of magic power inside its body, and at the same time it is highly intelligent. Because of that, if you try to tame it normally, it will simply resist, and you won't be able to contract it. However, a rimel bird is very sensitive to sound, and is able to differentiate its friends with a beautiful cry. Taking advantage of that behavior, one can play some music before contracting it, and if it comes to like you, then you'll be able to make a contract with it. This is the most accepted theory when it comes to taming a rimel bird." [Sebasu]

As expected of a different world, to actually have a method which goes beyond common sense?! Seriously, you actually have to play music to tame it?

"To think that you could actually tame a magical beast that way. I didn't know about that at all." [Ryouma]
"Well, the probability of success is extremely low. So because of that, there are many who think this method is fake. However, aside from this, there are no other ways to contract a rimel bird. So technically, this is the method with the highest chance of success." [Sebasu]
"With that in mind, Elia will also be performing for the rimel bird to try to tame it. That's what the training this afternoon is for." [Rheinhart]
"Ryouma-san, please listen to my performance. But don't worry, even if you fall asleep, or even if you don't listen, I won't mind. But please don't go back home." [Elia]

What's going on? If she asked me to listen, then it would have been fine. But she's actually telling me that it's fine even if I don't listen as long as I don't go home?

Then all of the sudden, Sebasu-san and the others laughed as they looked at me.

…… Ah! You mean to tell me!!

"Looks like you noticed." [Rheinbach]
"It's because you've been working too hard without rest these past few days. So we thought we'd have you rest for a bit." [Madam]
"Do you remember when you came to our room, when the store was about to be completed? We've been thinking about it a little since then. Ryouma-kun, you made a store right after completing a subjugation request. Then while hiring some employees for your store, you took some requests from the adventurer's guild. Then, on top of all that, I heard that you've actually been patrolling the abandoned mine and creating water proof cloths. You haven't been able to properly rest, right? There was even that incident yesterday. You'll most likely become even busier from now on in order to deal with that. So we thought we'd have you rest today under the pretext of training your slave magic." [Rheinhart]
"When we told your employees to let you take rest, they cheerfully agreed." [Sebasu]
"When did you…?" [Ryouma]

I didn't notice at all.

"We'll be properly watching you today. And we definitely won't let you work, Ryouma-kun." [Madam]
"You may not be able to rest your mind like this, but even if it's by force, if you don't rest your body, you might break it. So from now on, even if it's by force, as long as you work like this, I'll be taking you to my house." [Rheinbach]
"Sorry for making you worry." [Ryouma]
"You may not be overworking yourself, but if a normal person were to continue with the kind of workload you're putting on yourself, they would surely break. You also just might not be aware that you're pushing yourself, so be careful." [Rheinhart]
"So with that in mind, we'll be having Ryouma-san rest today. Then, I'll start my performance now." [Elia]

Elia's being unusually pushy today… or maybe she actually normally like this? … But then again, I guess you could also say that she's just innocent.

While I was thinking that, Elia took a violin from Sebasu-san, and started playing. Looks like there's also a violin in this world. Though it's also possible that an other-worlder brought it here.

As Elia began to play, I listened.

Elia's performance was good. And because it was such a calm tune, I was able to relax.

When Elia finished playing, she asked me what I thought of it.

"Ryouma-san, how was it?" [Elia]
"It was good. Very good." [Ryouma]

This isn't flattery. I also used to play a guitar back in my previous life, but I don't think I was able to play it as well she did her violin. Then again, we can't really be compared, since the instrument is different. But even though I'm not that acquainted with music, I think her performance was great.

I only gave her my simple impressions, but Elia looks happy. And so, like that, Elia continued to play, while I enjoyed the amiable company of Rogue and the slimes, caressing them, as we passed the time.

While I was caressing the three slimes I'd just recently caught, I let them absorb a little bit of my magic power. While I was doing that, one of them reacted. Seeing that I couldn't help but exclaim. Because of that, Elia stopped playing and walked over to me. The others too.

“Ah!? It came!” [Ryouma]
“What did!?” [Elia]
“Ryouma-kun, what is it all of the sudden?” [Rheinhart]
“What’s happening?” [Rheinbach]
“The slime is evolving!” [Ryouma]

At those words, everyone gathered around the slime I was caressing. That slime was shaking just like that time with the iron slime. Then it stopped, and then it began to release and absorb magic power.

When the slime’s body began to change color, everyone held their breaths as they curiously stared at the slime.

When the slime’s body turned light brown, the evolution ended. When I checked the slime with ‘Monster Identify’.

Earth Slime

Skills

- Earth Magic Lv2
- Earth Attribute Resistance Lv8
- Earth Magic Absorption Lv1
- Jump Lv1
- Digestion Lv3
- Absorption Lv3
- Split Lv1

The slime became an earth magician! Experiment, success!

“Ryouma-san, what did it turn into?” [Elia]
“It became an Earth Slime. A slime that can use Earth Magic.” [Ryouma]
“Oh? That’s a rare slime.” [Rheinbach]
“Ryouma-kun, the earth slime is a rare slime. Exactly how were you able to make it evolve like that?” [Rheinhart]

Since they asked me like that, I told them. When they heard how to, Elia and the madam tried it out, but they couldn’t do it.

They weren’t able to release magic power while changing its attribute. Whenever they tried to, they ended up casting magic.

From the looks of things, in order to release magic power with a different attribute, you need to have the ability to delicately manipulate magic. My ‘Magic Manipulation’ skill is at Lv4 so it was possible for me, but it wasn’t for the Madam and the Ojousama.

Elia, seemingly mortified, stopped practicing her music, and began practicing her control of magic.

Looks like after she learns the ‘Magic Manipulation’ skill, she’ll try again.

During that time, I fed the other two slimes with magic power, and they also evolved.

With this, I have two earth slimes, while the other slime evolved into a dark slime.

Dark Slime

Skills:

- Dark Magic Lv2
- Dark Attribute Resistance Lv8
- Dark Magic Absorption Lv1
- Jump Lv1
- Digestion Lv3
- Absorption Lv3
- Split Lv1

After that, I started caressing the slimes again when I neared my magic power's limit.

It was at such a time that for some reason, the crew bird flew and found a herd of horn rabbits. Seeing that, I decided to hunt the horn rabbits and bring them back as thanks to the people from the shop.

Rheinhart-san, Elia, and the others also came to help me.

I started off by taking out my bow, and shooting them. Then I drove them towards where the slimes, Rheinhart-san, and the rest were waiting. Like this, we were able to easily end the hunt.

After that, I had the bloody slime drain its blood, then I asked Elia to freeze it with her ice magic. Next, I put up a barrier and an anti-barrier on a box that Rheinbach-sama had made with earth magic. We put the spoils in there, then I hid it in my 'Item Box'. Speaking of which, I wonder if I should change the name 'Anti-Cold Barrier' into 'Cold-Retention Barrier'. After all, since improving the magic it's already become quite different from before.

While I was thinking that, I went back to Elia's group, returned the crew bird into the bird cage, and released the contract.

The madam told me that it was fine for me to take it with me, but I politely refused her. It's true that it's convenient, but it's not a problem for me even if I can't see things from the sky. If it does become necessary, I could just catch one myself.

After that, it was almost time to go home. But because I used up too much magic power, I ended up falling asleep while on the carriage. When we got back to the lodging, I opened my eyes, but… I wonder if it's because I ran out of magic power. Or maybe I just hadn't noticed it and the fatigue had actually been piling up. In any case, I went back to my room, and like that, I retired for the day.

Chapter 21

TL Note: This chapter was made possible by all the anons that have donated. Thank you anons.

Karma → Carm

The Next Day.

I went to the store before opening time.

"Good morning, everyone." [Ryouma]
"Good morning, Boss!" [Carm & Karla]
"Good morning!" [Everyone else]
"Thank you for yesterday. Thanks to you guys, I was able to rest well." [Ryouma]
"That's great." [Marie]
"Overworking is bad for your health, so please take care of yourself." [Karla]
"Boss, you're working too hard, you know? When we heard how much you've been working, we were shocked." [Li Ling]
"You actually built this store in 10 days. That's just crazy. If you keep up that pace, you'll die early, you know?" [Fei]
"I'll be careful." [Ryouma]
"Please do so." [Karla]
"Even if the Boss acts like an adult, he's still a kid after all." [Jeanne]
"Even if you're an adult, it's not good to push yourself." [Fina]

Looks like I caused my employees to worry. But actually, thanks to them being here, I didn't push myself that much. Still, I'm grateful that they were worried over me.

Because of that, I was quite happy. And so, I gave them my thanks, then I headed to the kitchen.

"Celma-san, are you here?"
"Is there anything you need, Boss?" [Celma]

When I got to the kitchen, the only cook of this store, Celma, was there. Our cook seems to be making some kind of soup. Seeing me, Celma-san stopped stirring, and walked towards me.

"Yesterday, I rested and I went out of the town for a bit. During that time, I managed to hunt some game, and so I thought I'd bring those back as souvenirs. I drained its blood right after killing it, then I froze it, so its quality should be good." [Ryouma]

As I said that, I took out the meat from my 'Item Box'.

"My, my, thank you very much. This is… horn rabbit, right? Please put this in the fridge for now, I'll serve it to everyone during lunch." [Celma]
"Thank you." [Ryouma]

As I said that, I went to put all of the meat in the fridge.

"Ara, ara, there's quite a lot, huh?" [Celma]
"It's because I was able to spot a herd of them." [Ryouma]
"I'm really glad that we have this refrigerator. It's really convenient." [Celma]

"Really? I mean, it certainly is convenient, but…" [Ryouma]

I have to put up the barrier once every day, so it's actually quite annoying. If I became better at barrier magic, then the duration of the barrier would also increase, but… well, it is better now that when I'd first using it, where each barrier only lasted for an hour.

"It is! It's really convenient! Normally, when there's an ingredient that I won't be able to use immediately, I'd be left with no option other than to just throw it away! Vegetables are one thing, but as for meat, I really have to throw them away immediately! Not only is it easy for meat to go bad during hot days and during the summer, but then, there's also the fact that it's easy to get sick from it. But with this refrigerator, even if I have plenty of ingredients, even if its meat, I can put them away, and use them for tomorrow. Like this, not only will I not waste food, we can also save money!" [Celma]
"Ah, now that you mention it… When I was in the forest, I hunted when I needed to eat, and before the excess meat went bad, I gave them to the slimes. So I guess I forgot about that." [Ryouma]
"The slimes are also quite convenient. They eat the trash and the bones for me. They've really helped me a lot." [Celma]

We chatted like that for a bit, then I put up the barrier for the fridge again. After which, I left the kitchen.

When I got out, Karla-san seemed to have some business with me, as she called out me.

"You want to increase the number of employees?" [Ryouma]
"The current number is enough for now, but when our branches start to increase we'll have a problem if we only start raising new employees then. At the very least, couldn't we start raising up a manager, or someone who will become a key player in the store?" [Karla]
"That's true… I don't have any objections regarding that. In the end, I'll have to leave it to Carm-san and the others to raise new employees. But the thing is, in our store the biggest problem is the slave magic user. To our store, cleaner slimes are indispensable, which means slave magic users are also needed. So the problem is, how are we going to hire a trustworthy slave magic user, who won't run off with the slimes or smuggle them?" [Ryouma]

"Normally you'd go to the tamer guild for that, but… Right now, the tamer guild is a suspect, so…" [Karla]
"Right… regarding that, there hasn't been any problem, has there?" [Ryouma]
"None. No one has come since then. But I don't think they're going to give up after just one failure." [Karla]
"…For the meantime, let's be careful. I'll try thinking about the slave magic user. As for your side, I don't mind if you add some people you appraise highly." [Ryouma]
"Thank you very much." [Karla]

After that, I left the store, and decided to go to the abandoned mine. On the way, I met Jeff-san. Today, he isn't wearing any armor, and he also doesn't have his spear with him. He walked over to where I am, while he stuffed his cheeks with skewered meat. Is it his day off?

"Oomph! Mmm… *gulp*, isn't that Ryouma?" [Jeff]
"Good morning, Jeff-san. Is it your day off today?" [Ryouma]
"I'm just tired because I've been fighting every day. Are you working today?" [Jeff]
"I'm going to the abandoned mine to run my rounds." [Ryouma]
"By abandoned mine, you mean the place where we hunted?" [Jeff]
"Yes. I've become the manager of that place. So I have to patrol it at fixed intervals, and make sure that no magical beasts are making a nest out of it." [Ryouma]

"You were doing a job like that? You're an adventurer, a laundromat, and a manager, aren't you busy?" [Jeff]
"Well, I've already left the laundromat to my employees, so I don't have anything to do right now. I can also rest freely as an adventurer. And it's not like I actually have to act as a manager for the mine every day. So until the store expands, I won't be busy." [Ryouma]

“Then I guess it’s fine, but… Oh, right. Want some? I’ll treat you.” [Jeff]

As Jeff-san said that, he took out his bag of skewered meat.

“Then, I’ll take one stick… Mn!” [Ryouma]

When I took a bite, what I tasted wasn’t herb or salt, but rather the stinging taste of seasoned meat. In this world, things like sugar and spices are expensive. Because of that, salt is generally the only ingredient used to make food taste better. But… this is delicious! It feels like it’s lacking in some parts, but… nevertheless, this is good!

“It’s delicious!” [Ryouma]
“Right? I bought it from that cart over there. They used a little bit of spice, so it’s a little expensive, but it’s delicious. There’s a plaza over there, so go take a seat and try tasting some.” [Jeff]

I followed Jeff-san, and entered a side street. The place we went to, was a plaza with a bench and a well. I took a seat on the bench as I observed the area. It’s kind of like a park.

“Didn’t you just start a new store? And now, you’re already thinking of starting another one?” [Jeff]
“It’s because the guild master of the merchant guild and my employees told me to think about it. It’s not like I’m planning to start one right away… besides, there’re some problems.” [Ryouma]
“What? Is there something bothering you?” [Jeff]
“The new shop is going to be at a different town, because of that I’ll end up having to travel frequently. But in order to make my store, it’s important for there to be someone who can manage the slimes.” [Ryouma]
“That’s not something you should worry about. Just go to the tamer guild.” [Jeff]

“Well the guild master of the tamer guild seems to be hostile to me, so he might do something strange. In fact, there were some thugs who were paid to make a mess in my store… The guard I employed, managed to stop them, but we think the one who hired those thugs is the guild master of the tamer guild.” [Ryouma]
“You, did you do something bad?” [Jeff]
“Nothing in particular. I just went to register with the Dukes’ family’s young lady… and so from the looks of things, he dislikes me for having a close relationship with the duke’s household, despite me being like this.” [Ryouma]
“Ahh… so it’s that kind of guy. Those kinds who brandish their position and connections are such a pain.” [Jeff]
“Indeed. Moreover, he’s the kind of guy who doesn’t care about people below him. Putting it bluntly, he’s not someone who can be trusted. There’s no way I’d hire someone from the guild of a man like that.” [Ryouma]

As I said that, I bit into my skewered meat. Jeff-san finished his own set, and as he brought out a second set, he said, “Then in that case, I have a suggestion.”
“Really?” [Ryouma]
“Yeah! I’m not good at stuff that involves one’s head, as I can’t do anything else aside from fighting. Because of that, I can’t help you out when it comes to business and stuff. But when it comes to people, then that’s a different story. If you don’t want to hire someone from the tamer guild, then how about hiring someone from the slums?” [Jeff]
“Someone from the slums, huh?’ [Ryouma]

“That’s right. The people from the slums are poor, but it’s not like they can’t do anything. I’m also someone who used to be from the slums, but I’m living as an adventurer now, right? In the same way, I know many people who can use slave magic. There are all sorts in the slums. There are people who are useless, and then, there are also those who are too skilled, was conspired against, and ended up in the slums. Isn’t it fine if you hire those kinds of guys?
This town is a mining town, so there’re more jobs here compared to other towns. So, while it’s not possible to live comfortable, people aren’t being driven into a corner either. Because of that, there aren’t many who would commit a crime. And there are actually plenty who can be considered decent people. And more than anything, these people have a strong sense of camaraderie with those who’ve also come from the slums.

Unless you do what the public office did, and try to drive down the salary, I don't think they'll betray you. The people of the slum also want a stable life. That's why, if you want to hire, then you can hire immediately. As for whether you can form a trusting relationship, well that depends on you." [Jeff]

Is this what you call, having the scales fall from your eyes? Now that he mentions it, the guild is more of something like an agency. As long as you have an intermediary, then it doesn't matter. I can look for people by myself, and put them through the merchant guild instead.

"Try thinking about it. Once you've made up your mind, I'll act as your middleman. Even till now, my face is still useful around the slums, you know?" [Jeff]
"Thank you very much. I'll think about it." [Ryouma]

As I said that, I finished eating my skewered meat. I give my thanks to Jeff-san, and head towards the abandoned mine. On the way, I thought about the discussion we just had.

It's not bad, right? Rheinbach-sama also employed the slum people to clean the latrine pits. So at the very least, they're not unhirable, and there's also the possibility that there might be someone trustworthy there.

While I was thinking that, I reached the abandoned mine. I immediately set off to start the production of waterproof cloths. I didn't have any problem even with 50, so I guess I can do 70 today.

I fix the cloth on the workbench, then I leave it to the sticky slimes.

When that ended, I started the training. The sticky slimes, poison slimes, acid slimes, and scavenger slimes are all fine, but… it doesn't seem like the bloody slime is made for combat. Because its body is closer to liquid than the others, its attacks have absolutely no power behind it. It doesn't have any abilities for fighting either… and because its movements are so slippery, its first movement is fast, so it looks like it can at least run, but… is this something to be happy about? For the meantime, I guess I'll spend some time observing it." [Ryouma]

Then, there's the metal slime and the iron slime. They're both hard, but because I've only just recently tamed them, they're still not able to move their bodies well. Turning their body into a tentacle also seems to be impossible for them… If they were able to, then I could've made them harden along with it and do all sorts of things, but… yeah, I guess I'll also have to spend some time with these guys.

As for the earth slimes and the dark slime, they're all able to use magic.

The earth slimes can use 'Rock', 'Break Rock' and a currently still weak 'Earth Needle'. As for the dark slime, it can cause its surrounding to become darker with 'Darkness', and it can also shoot out a ball of darkness with 'Dark Ball'. It's something I rarely use, but it's a kind of magic that sucks out one's life force. Even if you say 'suck' though, it won't replenish your life. The magic that can accomplish that, is a mid-level magic called 'Drain'.

These guys also move like normal slimes. So I'll have them train their magic, then I'll have them train their movements a bit, afterwards, I guess I could let them take the role of a gunner?

It's also essential to have some live combat experience when using attack magic, so yeah… these guys will also take some time.

I've already confirmed that the earth slimes can use 'Rock' and 'Break Rock', so I guess I'll try teaching them 'Create Block'.

As I tried to teach them that, they were able to do it after several tries. I was a bit surprised at their learning speed, but I think it's good that they learn fast.

As for the dark slime… I guess I'll have it practice the 'Dark ball'? I'm also not that well-versed at dark magic, so… I guess I'll train alongside it.

After that, while letting the cloths dry, I trained with the earth slimes, and at the same time, we also made some building stones. I had the newly made building stones be carried into a tunnel for safekeeping. I'll use them when I make a house next time.

And then, just like usual, when the cloths finished drying, I retrieved it, and left. When I got back to the lodging, I visited the duke's room.

"Welcome, Ryouma-san." [Elia]
"You came." [Rheinbach]
"Is there something?" [Rheinhart]
"There was something I wanted to discuss for a bit." [Ryouma]
"Oh? What is it?" [Rheinbach]

I talked about what I'd discussed today with Jeff-san. Hearing that, they seemed to think it wasn't a bad idea.

"I don't mind if you hire the slum people. That is, if you can trust them. But then, you do have an intermediary, so as long as that guy is trustworthy, then I don't think there'll be any problem." [Rheinbach]
"Even if it's a little, like this, the slum's job prospects will also increase, so I'm a little happy. Only, I think it's better if you stick with the guild. It may not be illegal, but because of how much money you're making, it wouldn't be strange for people to try to find some dirt on you. At that time, the less holes you have, the better." [Rheinhart]
"That's certainly true. But, could I pass it through the merchant guild, instead of the tamer guild?" [Ryouma]

As I said that, pondering, the madam smiled at me and said, "Don't worry, it's fine. After all, even though you're also registered as a slave magic user, you're also registered as a merchant, right? Moreover, this might be poor of me to say, but the people of the slum are most likely people who wouldn't accept jobs from the tamer guild.
Just like Ryouma-kun, they too, only have weak slave monsters. Even if they try to tame a stronger magical beast, they can't. Otherwise, they'd be able to get jobs from the tamer guild, and that would allow their lifestyle to improve. It's also normal for them to look for jobs that aren't related to slave magic, so there shouldn't be any room for criticism." [Madam]
"Precisely. Still, I think it's better if you talk with the guild master of the merchant guild first. That way, everything can proceed without a hitch." [Rheinbach]

That's true. Alright!

"Then, I'll go to the merchant guild tomorrow." [Ryouma]

With that, we came to a conclusion. After that, I drank some black tea for a while, while I asked them about the tamer guild's criterion, then afterwards, I left the room.

Apparently, the current tamer guild considers the power of the magic beast that the slave magic user has contracted to be a representation of that magician's skill. So it doesn't seem like they're actually looking at actual abilities. All they're looking at is the division of the magical beasts' strength by referencing something that somewhat resembles an illustration book. Moreover, regardless of how many you contract, as long as it's something weak like a slime, then they won't value it. That is to say, 0 is 0 no matter how many times you multiply it.

All in all, what this means is that, as long as you're able to contract with a strong beast, then you're an expert at slave magic. If you can't do that, then you're bad at slave magic.

Of course, I also understand that there are people like the duke's household, who don't only judge a slave magic user's ability on that, alone. But then, there's also the fact that it takes time to train and figure out a way to use your slave monster, whereas if you'd just tamed a powerful slave monster instead, then even if you don't train much, you'll be able to easily gain strength. It would appear that, that kind of thinking has become popular in recent years.

Matthew is a typical man who thinks like that. And after gaining some influence, it would appear that he's become rather wicked.

Before I went back to my room, they emphasized to me the need to be careful of Matthew. If they only had some proof of his wrongdoings, then they'd be able to do something, but without any evidence, it becomes really difficult.

Really, these guys are always saving me. I'm really grateful.

Chapter 22

TL Note: Karma → Carm; I misread it, sorry, haha.

Speaking of which, I wonder if #fuckmatthew is going to be a thing now.

The Next Day.

I went to the store and talked to Carm-san and Karla-san regarding the discussion yesterday. After that, I headed to the merchant guild, and was again brought to the reception room. It happens every time, so I've already gotten used to it…

"You need more people again?" [Grisela]
"Yes. But there's also something I wanted to consult you about." [Ryouma]
"Hmm? What is it?" [Grisela]

I explained the situation.

"So the dimwit has his eye on you, has he?" [Grisela]
"You know Matthew?" [Ryouma]
"But of course. He is, after all, the guild master of this town's tamer guild. So it can't be helped that I sometimes have to meet him, not that I enjoy seeing him, mind you. That guy's someone who got drunk on his own power, and can't do anything else except suck up to influential people. Aside from that, the only other things he's good at are working his subordinates, and making excuses. That guy believes in money and power. Seeing you with the duke, he probably sees you as someone who is trying to curry favor. Like that, if you go hire some people from the tamer guild, it won't do you any good." [Grisela]
"So it really is as I'd expected." [Ryouma]

"No question about it. Hiring people from the slum is a good idea. That guy treats the slave magic users from the slum as a bunch of no goods, so even if he wants to, he won't be able to stop them. Even if they're affiliated with the guild, they should be being treated poorly. If it's people like that, then at the very least they won't try to help Matthew, right? … If you find someone you think is trustworthy, take them with you. You won't have any problems with the legal process. Besides it's not really a crime or anything." [Grisela]
"In that case, I'll do as you've suggested. Thank you very much." [Ryouma]
"Yeah, do your best." [Grisela]

As I stood up from the sofa and was about to leave, she said, "Ryouma, go take your seat again, I forgot to tell you something."
"What is it?" I said as I sat again.

"I investigated a bit about the thugs who came to your store. I was able to find out that they were hired by someone, but unfortunately, I couldn't find out who. There's the possibility that the dark guild is involved, so be careful." [Grisela]
"Dark guild…" [Ryouma]

In other words, a criminal group, right?

"Is the dark guild a gathering of assassins and thieves?" [Ryouma]
"Yes. The dark guild takes dirty requests, and gives them to their members. The contents of their job are illegal, so naturally, they're an illegal organization. But they don't just commit crimes, they also provide the tools. Because they'll do anything, there're quite a lot who give them requests. They're a group that specializes in

killing, so be careful." [Grisela]
"I understand, thank you for warning me." [Ryouma]
"Don't mind it." [Grisela]

As the guild master said that, she sent me off, and I left the guild. I was planning to go to the mine next, but then, I happened by someone I didn't want to meet. That guy was standing by the side of a luxurious carriage when he saw me. Seeming irritated, he called out to me in a strained voice.

"Bastard, what are you doing here?" [Matthew]
"This is the main street. Isn't it normal for people to pass by here? Branch Head, Matthew." [Ryouma]

Who would've thought that we'd end up meeting here in the road like this? I see he's still as annoying as ever, though. But this is different from before. Last time I was with the duke, so he hid it. But now that I'm all alone, he's openly showing his aggression.

"Hmph! A dimwit like you shouldn't be calling me so familiarly… By the way, I heard you started a strange store." [Matthew]

He knows about the store? … Is it him? Did he really send the thugs?

"It seems you're using slimes, but a talentless dimwit like you who has only been able tame slimes, despite being a slave magic user for 3 years, isn't fit to be called a slave magic user. Moreover, your slimes are a new race? And they eat dirt? Hmph! Not only do you have a bunch of useless beasts, the only things those things are capable of is making themselves dirtier!" [Matthew]

As he kept insulting me like that, I ended up remembering the time when I registered. Because of that, I became even more annoyed. It doesn't matter what I say to a guy like this. It'd just fall on deaf ears. Seriously, what a pain in the ass. Still though, for some reason, I just can't find myself getting angry at this guy. I'm slightly pissed off, but… I'm able to remain calm…

"Good grief, you're such an eyesore. Even though you're social standing is like that, you actually dare to cajole the duke? Last time, the young lady of the duke and his missus defended you, so I had no choice but to let you register. But I can never accept that you're actually a member of my tamer guild! I will absolutely never accept it! Even if you come to the guild, I won't give you a job! To begin with, a dimwit like you who can't tame anything but a slime, can't do anything! … Ah, you're here. Come!" [Matthew]

Matthew said the things he wanted to say to me until a young woman wearing a gaudy outfit came. He let her ride his carriage, then he immediately set off.

Seriously, what a horrible person to be with… However, he mentioned that slimes and scavenger slimes are useless and unable to do anything else except become dirtier. Does that mean he hasn't noticed their value at all?

Wasn't he the one who sent the thugs?

Well, whatever. I've changed my mind. I originally wasn't planning to make a fuss regarding the profits, but as revenge for today, I'll go make a killing with those slimes he called worthless. I want to have the issue with the slave magic users solved anyway, so I might as well ask Jeff-san now.

I decided not to go to the mine, and instead, I decided to head towards the adventurer's guild.

When I got to the guild, I asked where Jeff-san was. Apparently, he should be going home soon, so I waited by the guild.

After 1 hour of waiting, Jeff-san arrived. After I saw him finish reporting his request's success, I called out to him.

"Jeff-san." [Ryouma]
"Hey, if it isn't Ryouma. What's up?" [Jeff]
"I wanted to ask for your help regarding our discussion some time ago." [Ryouma]
"Oh, that's fast. I thought you'd take more time to make up your mind. Well, if you've decided, then we can go now." [Jeff]
"Is it ok?" [Ryouma]
"I don't mind. Besides, I was planning to go to the slums today anyway. My house is also close by, so let's go." [Jeff]
"Then, please take care of me." [Ryouma]

And so, we went to the slums. On the way, we bought some food ingredients. Apparently, these are refreshments for the slum people. Because of the public office, the slum people's income has suffered, and so the people who used to live in the slums are giving those in the slums assistance little by little.

After we finished shopping, we carried everything as we walked. Gradually, the presence of people vanished. The kind of building we saw became seedier and seedier. And even the children we saw from time to time wore shabby clothes. When they saw Jeff-san they waved their hands and called out, and Jeff-san also responded to them.

After that, I just followed them.

After a while, we arrived at an old but well-built building that's slightly bigger than the others.

"Is grandpa here?" Said Jeff as he lightly knocked on the door.

The door opened by itself. I felt some magic power just now… so it's probably the work of magic.

"Looks like he's here, let's go in." [Jeff]

When we entered, there was an old man, around 60 year old, with white hair, sitting on a large chair while facing a plain table. The man calmly spoke.

"You came again, Jeff. Thank you for always helping us. However, I'm not at an age where you can call me 'grandpa', you know?" [Grandpa]
"You're plenty old in my opinion." [Jeff]
"My legs and loins are still fine, so I'm not an old man. But that aside, who's this kid? Did you bring another one you want me to watch over?" [Grandpa]
"Even if he's like this, he's an excellent adventurer. Enough to make his own living. He came here to discuss something with you. Something that's also beneficial to the slum." [Jeff]
"Oh?" [Grandpa]

At those words, the man looked at me.

"A pleasure to meet you, my name is Ryouma Takebayashi." [Ryouma]
"You don't need those manners here. I'm Ribble, the boss of Gimuru's slum. Jeff introduced you, so you're probably trustworthy, but I'll warn you just in case. You can't just do whatever you want here. And if we can maintain a good relationship, then we'll also be grateful to you."

The moment he said those words, he gave off a strong aura of intimidation. I guess it's just what you'd expect from a boss.

“Of course. I also don’t want any unnecessary hostility.” [Ryouma]

When I said that, Ribble-san snorted and laughed while broadly grinning.

“Looks like you didn’t get scared… Good guts, kid.” [Ribble]
“Ain’t that obvious? He’s someone I acknowledge, you know?” [Jeff]
“I see. Well, what is that beneficial discussion of yours?” [Ribble]
“I’ll explain.” [Ryouma]

It’s my store, so the one who should talk is me, right? As I thought that, I explained.

“I see. You don’t want the tamer guild to butt in, so you want to hire some people from the slums. That’s certainly beneficial. Since you’re going to be providing a place of work, and moreover, salary high enough to make a living, then I don’t have any problems. As long as you pay them properly, you can take whoever you want. As for us, it’s enough for us to have another person allocating materials and food.” [Ribble]

Well, this discussion wrapped up unexpectedly fast. I thought he’d take a referral fee too, but… I guess Jeff-san’s introduction had an effect? In any case, what’s important now is to find a trustworthy slave magic user that I can hire.

After that, we left Ribble-san’s home, and went over to an acquaintance of Jeff-san who knows how to use slave magic. On the way, Jeff-san called over two kids and asked them to call someone over.

After a while, we arrived at a house. Jeff-san walked over to its door, and violently knocked.

“Hey! Old Caulkins! You’re here, right!? Come out!” [Jeff]

Right now, Jeff-san looks like a debt collector… As I thought that, the door slammed open, and a thin man middle-aged man, who looks like his withering, came out. He feels like a salary man who just went through his company’s restructuring.

“Shut up Jeff! Even if you don’t bang on door that much, I can hear you!” [Caulkins]
“There’ve been too many times when I called you, and you didn’t come out!” [Jeff]
“It’s your fault, since you had to come while I was in the middle of my research!” [Caulkins]
“Like hell it is!” [Jeff]
“What could someone like you who has never researched understand? Researching is like diving into a deep sea of thought, and just like bubbles, you have to pursue the ideas before they disappear. There’s no way I’d have the free time to deal with other things, during that!” [Caulkins]
“It’s because you don’t think about other things like that, that you ended up bankrupt because of your fruitless research!” [Jeff]
“Ugu… There’s nothing I can say to that… forget it, what’s your business?” [Caulkins]
“I came here to bring you a job offer as a slave magic user.” [Jeff]

When the man named Caulkins heard that, his eyes twinkled.

“A job? Me? A job as a slave magic user?” [Caulkins]
“Yeah, the boss is Ryouma over here.” [Jeff]

At those words, Caulkins finally noticed me.

“A pleasure to meet you, my name is Ryouma Takebayashi.” [Ryouma]
“Excuse me, I showed you something unsightly. Are you the client? Moreover, the client who wants me as a slave magic user…?” [Caulkins]

“For the meantime, let us inside, old man.” [Jeff]

At Jeff-san’s words, Caulkins scratched his head as realization hit him. Entering the house, the atmosphere became gloomy. The house had one room, with one magic stone for light, and one cloth at a corner which is probably used as an alternative to a proper futon. Without even a chair, we had to talk while sitting on the ground.

“And? What kind of work do you want me to do? It’s sad, but unfortunately, I can’t really call myself exceptional as a slave magic user. And since I can’t tame strong magical beasts, I didn’t have a choice but leave that line of work and become a researcher instead. In other words, I’m just a guy obsessed with his research. I really don’t know if I can meet your expectations, since it seems you want me as a slave magic user. I think I could do something if it’s research though.” [Caulkins]
“Research? What kind of research?’ [Ryouma]

When I said that, he replied like this in a self-depreciating manner.

“It’s the theme of the last research I was given at the place I worked at a long time ago… it has to do with slimes.” [Caulkins]

Slime!?

“Really!?” [Ryouma]
“Yeah, but without any results, I ended up getting fired. Although more than 10 years had already passed, I still have some lingering affection for it and am still…… Why are your eyes sparkling?” [Caulkins]

While Caulkins was feeling worthless, he couldn’t help but ask that, when he saw my expression.

“You know, when people hear that I’m researching slimes, I normally get thought of as an idiot, you know? Even in the lab, you get treated as someone who isn’t doing anything. In fact, it’s the kind of job the higher-ups give you, when they want to get rid of you. It was like that for me. So why is it that your eyes are sparkling?” [Caulkins]
“Because I’m also a researcher. And I research slimes.” [Ryouma]
“What!?” [Caulkins]

After that, we were speechless for a moment as we stared into each other’s eyes…… then eventually, we grasped each other’s hands, and exchanged a hard handshake.

“Comrade!” [Caulkins]
“Senpai!” [Ryouma]
“What just happened in those few seconds!?” [Jeff]
“Eh, just now, something, like this…” [Ryouma]
“An outsider wouldn’t understand. It’s the kind of happiness that researchers feel when they meet another researcher who is researching the same topic that they are.” [Caulkins]
“True, I definitely don’t get it.” [Jeff]

At this point, we suddenly heard a knock.

“There’s another customer? Today’s pretty noisy, huh?” [Caulkins]

Caulkins stood up, and went to the door to open it. When he did so, there were two people, a man and a woman, standing there.

“Caulkins-san? We heard that if we went here we would be able to get a job. Is it true?” [Woman]
“I didn’t think a job as a slave magic user would actually come, so I quickly came!” [Man]
“Robelia, Tony, so you were also informed? That’s right, a client who’s looking for slave magic users came.

Moreover, he's a comrade of ours!" [Caulkins]
"Comrade?" [Robelia]
"You mean to say…" [Tony]
"For the meantime, come in!" [Caulkins]

As Caulkins-san said that, he pulled the two inside, then closed the door.

After that, I greeted the two, and introduced myself to them.

First, the man amongst the two is currently 23 years old. Apparently, he is an exceptional slave magic user, but because of jealousy, his boss and his colleagues took advantage of his honest nature, and pushed the scandal and failure of an experiment to him. With him taking responsibility, he ended up demoted. He was then ordered to research slimes, and after not being able to bring results, he was fired.

I asked him why he's not taking other jobs when he's so exceptional, but it turns out, he's also being watched by Matthew, and is being kept from taking jobs. Matthew used the tamer guild's network, and destroyed his reputation as a slave magic user by telling others of his incompetence. Because of that, he wouldn't able to get a job as a slave magic user even if he went to another town. He is currently a day laborer at a mine.

As for the woman, her name is Robelia, and she's 25 years old. She became a researcher for the same reason Caulkins-san became one. But then, she was sexually harassed by a superior. And because she had solely been pursuing research, she was not accustomed to men, causing her to accidentally spur her slave monsters. Her slave monsters weren't strong, so at most they were just threatening. Only, they ended up cutting her superior. That superior played innocent and demoted Robelia, where she was then made to research slimes. After some time she was fired. Currently she works at a brothel, three times a week.

After that, I introduced myself and talked about the details of the job. When they heard that, their eyes sparkled. By the way, while I was explaining to them, I brought a cleaner slime from my 'Dimension Home' to show them. Actually, in order to keep myself clean, I always keep a cleaner slime with me in my 'Dimension Home'. I first showed them the cleaner slime's shower. Then, having shown them that it's safe, I let them try it out next.

"Who would have thought that there would be a slime like this? This kind of slime really suits a laundromat. By the way, do you mind if I research during my free time?" [Caulkins]
"We'll make those guys who look down on slime research take back their words!" [Robelia]
"Matthew still hasn't realized the value of this, right? To have this opportunity to be able to shock that Matthew… let me do it, no, please let me do it!" [Tony]
"Please let us work for you!!" [All three of them]

Having been told that with enough vigor to make me back of a bit… These guys will definitely not turn on me for Matthew. If it's like this, I think I can trust them. Although, now, I'm kind of hesitant to hire them for a different reason, but… Whatever. To begin with, I really shouldn't speak for others, and besides, they won't betray me, so isn't it fine?

Also, they kind of have the same objective as me, who wants the views of those who look down on slimes. But, the only ones I can fully trust right now are Karla-san and the others. Should I have them watch over these guys? Hmm… but rather than that…

"Is it alright with your jobs?" [Ryouma]
"I don't have any job right now. I already finished my contract a few days ago, and I don't know when the next job is coming, so I'm actually a bit troubled." [Caulkins]
"As for me, I'm originally a day laborer, so I don't have any problems." [Tony]
"Regarding my work at the brothel, all it takes for me to end it is a few words. And even though I call it a brothel, all I'm really doing is borrowing the place, and paying them a part of my income. There's no other contract." [Robelia]

“Then, can you three compute?” [Ryouma]
“Of course we can do it!!” [All three of them]
“Then in that case, please come work for me at my store. The location of the second store hasn’t been decided yet, so for the moment, please work to learn the ropes. What should we do for your lodging? Are you guys going to live here, or would you like to live at the store?” [Ryouma]
“Live at your store!” [All three of them]
“Then we’ll do that… I have something I want to talk to you guys regarding the store… Jeff-san, is there a clothes shop somewhere around here?” [Ryouma]

These guys’ clothes are too shabby. Even if I have the cleaner slimes clean them, the holes won’t be fixed. If they work like this I’ll be troubled. And in this world, uniforms aren’t used except for high class stores. Most stores just generally use civilian clothes. My store is the same.

So because of that, I had Jeff-san and Robelia-san go to a nearby clothes shop to buy several clothes. For Robelia, while it wasn’t anything extravagant, she did have some clothes that could be used for work. However, because it wasn’t the kind of attire that you’d wear in a laundromat, I still had her go buy some. No one else was privy to women’s work clothes, so we had to let her choose for herself.

During that time, I went to the town, and let Carm-san know that I’d already decided on the new hires.

Chapter 23

After coming back from the store, I met up with Caulkins-san and the others who have already changed their clothes.

“Then, I’ll be going now.” [Jeff]
“Thank you very much, Jeff-san!” [Ryouma]
“I told you, don’t mind it. I’ll see you around!” [Jeff]

Seeing that I’d arrived, Jeff-san left since his job was already completed.

I give my thanks to Jeff-san and bow my head. Then I take Caulkins-san and the others with me to the merchant guild.

_____

When we got there, as expected, we were brought to the reception room where the guild master received us.

“These guys are your new hires?”[Grisela]
“Yes, they were introduced to me by an acquaintance of mine.” [Ryouma]
“As usual, you really work fast. Didn’t you only discuss this with me yesterday? Well, that kind of thing is good for a merchant. So, you guys are planning to work at this kid’s store, right?” [Grisela]
“Yes!” [Caulkins, Robelia, Tony]

The guild master looked at the three of them when she heard their reply. I have a feeling she was somewhat taken aback.

“Ho ho…….. Ryouma, what trick did you pull? I can feel some kind of strange ambition from them. With that, I don’t think they’ll be turning on you. Rather, they’re more likely to work hard for you. In any case, it doesn’t feel like you’d just met today.” [Grisela]

Well, yeah… After all, all three of them were former slime researchers. And with them understanding the value of the cleaner slimes, they value me quite highly despite my age.

At the same time, they also have their grudge. So not only are they happy because of having the possibility of clearing that grudge, but the salary they will be receiving will allow them to live a stable life. So although we haven’t known each for long, it would appear that they’ve already taken quite a liking to me. Especially Tony, who like me, is being watched by Matthew.

The reasons aside, since there’s no problem, I was able to receive the guild master’s permission, and was able to register the three.

Afterwards, I properly made a contract that left the cleaner slimes in their care, but prohibited them from handing it over to others. They used a special kind of paper, normally only used for big deals, to create the contract.

While it isn't not something special that uses magic, it is strictly monitored by the guild, so it’s not possible to make forgeries or to transfer ownership. In cases where someone is found guilty, the punishment is harsher than normal.

An exception to this is in the instance where I have a new store. As long as they have my permission, then they will be able to assign another to be in charge of that store as a slave magic user. After all, if I don’t do this, then I won’t be able to increase my branch stores.

I finish the rest of the legal process, then I leave the guild with the three as I give my thanks to the guild master.

When we got to the store, I introduced them to Carm-san and the others. And then, I immediately had them start working a little.

According to what I've heard along the way, apparently Caulkins-san is a former noble. Because of that he had a somewhat arrogant tone when speaking. I decided to have him carry the laundries.

I had Tony do the same, since he had a strong physique from his work as a day laborer in the mine.

Robelia-san has experience interacting with people directly because of her job, so I had her work as a receptionist just like she did in her previous job. It was quite sudden, but she seemed to do just fine. Or rather, aren't the adventurers that're coming being bewitched? Her attire isn't particularly revealing, so… I guess it's not related to that. But then, I guess what you see isn't everything.

Anyway, from the looks of things, those bewitched adventurers will probably become regulars soon.

Which reminds me, the girls I've hired are all pretty… then again the level of the people in this world might just generally be higher when it comes to appearance. After all, I haven't met someone ugly yet, and even the older ones have aged well. While I was thinking that, I suddenly heard a loud voice. This voice, Raypin-san?

"Isn't it Caulkins!? Why are you here –de aru!?" [Raypin]
"That manner of talking, Raypin!?" [Caulkins]

Eh? Raypin-san and Caulkins-san were acquaintances?

"You two are acquaintances?" [Ryouma]

I was in the process of carrying some laundry, so I asked that question while carrying some with me.

"Y–yes. Raypin-san was a former colleague of mine." [Caulkins]
"We're coworkers who joined our magical beast research lab on the same year. I stopped working after a few years, but who would have thought that we'd end up meeting here. Caulkins, when did you come to this town –de aru?" [Raypin]
"That's…" [Caulkins]

It looked like it's going to be a bit complicated, so I took them to the store's reception room.

After Caulkins-san explained the situation, Raypin-san sighed deeply.

"I didn't expect that you'd actually been living in this town before me –de aru. I thought for sure that you'd just arrived." [Raypin]
"… I also didn't think that you'd be in this town. I thought that you'd be bustling about different towns now, chasing after all kinds of magical beasts." [Caulkins]
"Even if I did go around towns, I'd still need to have a town I could consider my base. Still, to meet like this, this is really an amazing coincidence –de aru." [Raypin]
"I also thought that we'd never meet again. I've always thought that it would've been better if I accepted your proposition to leave the research lab." [Caulkins]
"I did tell you –de aru. That even if the two of us can do research, we don't suit research labs." [Raypin]
"I'm different from you, I don't have any talent for magic. Moreover, I also don't have any talent in taming magical beasts. So I thought that it'd be too dangerous for me to take adventurer jobs, and so I refused you. Even until now, I don't think that was the wrong choice.

But I think it would have been better if I gave up research earlier. That way I wouldn't have ended bankrupt. But in the end, I did end up finding a job here today, so it may not have been all that bad. We decided that if it's here, we'd be able to make those guys who laughed at us, take back their words. And while it's only been a few hours, after finding out about the cleaner slimes, I realized that there's some benefit in continuing slime research after all. I'm really grateful to the Boss." [Caulkins]
"I'll rely on you from now on, so please do your best." [Ryouma]
"Of course." [Caulkins]
"It seems a lot has happened, but in any case, I'm glad that you'll be able to live safely –de aru. And with Ryouma's store, you'll definitely have a peace of mind when it comes to your livelihood." [Raypin]

Looks like they're done talking. Oh, come to think of it, didn't Raypin come for something? It doesn't look like it's for laundry… or did he put the laundry inside his 'Item Box'?

"By the way, Raypin-san. Did you come here today to have your laundries washed?" [Ryouma]
"Oh right! I didn't come here today for a laundry request. I already had a lot of clothes washed yesterday, so I'm fine on that front –de aru." [Raypin]

I see. So he came when I wasn't around.

"Today, I came here to inform you about something that I think you should know –de aru. Do you know about Grell Frogs?" [Raypin]
"Grell Frogs? Those are the magical beasts that will have an outbreak in a swamp near this town, right? Its hide is used to make armor, and its internal organs are used to make medicines." [Ryouma]
"Since you know about them, then this'll be quick. The outbreak is starting, de aru." [Raypin]
"Really!?" [Ryouma]
"The signs have just come out, so the peak will be after 3 or 4 days. The request regarding the grell frogs will be posted in the guild, starting tomorrow –de aru. The grell frogs sell for a high price as an ingredient for medicine, so it's a good time to make money. Moreover, they can also be used as feed for the rimel birds, so they're quite popular amongst slave magic users and nobles –de aru.
It's quite prestigious for a slave magic user to be able to tame a rimel bird, so if you were to catch that, then the guild's view of you will change. But from what I've heard from Caulkins regarding the details of his employment, it probably wouldn't have any effect –de aru." [Raypin]

True, in fact it would probably have the opposite effect, and Matthew would become even more hostile. Speaking of which, I heard that rimel birds are able to fly fast, and so they're probably useful for communicating.

"Thank you for the information. I think I'll give taming the rimel birds a shot, since It'll be good to have a way to quickly communicate with the other branch stores once I set them up." [Ryouma]

All of the sudden, someone knocked at the door. I think it might be Carm-san from the voice. But because his voice is similar to Karla-san's, it's quite hard to tell which.

"Boss, the adventurer, Asagi-sama, and four others are here. They said they had something they wanted to talk to you about." [Carm]

What? For the meantime, Raypin-san and Caulkins-san gave me an understanding glance, and then I replied.

"Please have them come here." [Ryouma]
"I understand." [Carm]

As he said that, Carm-san took his leave. After that, Caulkins-san also left the room. It seems that because he can meet Raypin-san from now on, he went back to his work.

And then, coming from a different entrance from Caulkins-san, Asagi-san, Miya-san, Wereanna-san, Mizelia-san, and Syria-san came.

“Welcome, everyone. What’s the matter?” [Ryouma]
“Sorry for the sudden visit, nya. Raypin-san is also here, nya?” [Miya]
“I came here to tell Ryouma about the grell frog outbreak –de aru.” [Raypin]
“Oh, so you too? We came here to talk about something related to that –de gozaru.” [Asagi]
“It’s quite sudden, but Ryouma, can you tell us where you bought those work clothes you used before?” [Wereanna]
“While we can leave our laundry here, going back is quite hard. Especially to us, beastmen and dragon newts. That’s why we want to get some clothes that won’t get dirty easily. [Mizelia]

Ahh, I see, so that’s why… then in that case, they have good timing. I’ll introduce them to Serge-san’s store. I’ve already been delivering the water proof cloths, so I guess I should get started with making them.

“You can get them from the Morgan Firm of this town. It’s not yet popular, so the demand is still quite low. Because of that, I don’t know how many they have in stock. There might be the possibility of running out of stock, but since you have already met him in my store’s opening party, and with my introduction, I think you should be able to get some advice.” [Ryouma]

At the very least you won’t be turned down.

“Really!? Thank you very much!” [Syria]
“Please don’t mind it.” [Ryouma]
“No, really. You’ve really saved us, since our nose work way better than humans.” [Mizelia]
“Even with just fragrances, it’s quite tough.” [Wereanna]

Is it really that tough?

“Thank you. Then, we’ll be taking our leave. When we go to the Morgan Firm, we’ll be troubling you.” [Asagi]

As he said that, Asagi-san hurriedly went back.

“What? That’s kinda strange.” [Wereanna]
“True, I thought Asagi would apologize a bit more for suddenly intruding.” [Mizelia]
“Aah!?” [Syria]
“What, nya!?” [Miya]
“What’s the matter, Syria-san?” [Ryouma]
“The work clothes Ryouma-san had with him might be running out of stock!” [Syria]
“!!” [Miya, Mizelia, Wereanna]
“So that’s it!” [Wereanna]
“Asagi, so you made sure to quickly buy one for yourself!” [Mizelia]
“We have to hurry, nya! Ryouma-kun, thank you, nya!” [Miya]

As they said that, Miya-san and the others also quickly left. Is it that bad? I wonder exactly how effective their noses are?

“What a noisy bunch, huh?” [Raypin]
“Raypin-san, you’re not going?” [Ryouma]
“I’m already used to foul odors and dirty thing things. It’s an indispensable part of being a researcher –de aru. Moreover, I’m going to be catching grell frogs with my magic, so I won’t be getting that dirty –de aru.” [Raypin]
“I see.” [Ryouma]

After that, I talked a little bit more with Raypin-san about magical beasts.

While talking, I learned that when the guild buys grell frogs, they pay a medium silver coin for each. This is apparently because of the many effects that the medicines made from grell frogs' inner organs have.

When I heard that, I thought about the medical knowledge that I received when I came into this world, and there were over 50 kinds that used grell frog as an ingredient. Moreover, there were a lot of analeptics and vitality boosters amongst those medicines, making them popular amongst nobles and men.

But the most important part is the processing. If it's done by someone unskilled, then the quality will immediately drop. If one still attempts it, then not only is there a possibility of the medicine being of poor quality, it's also possible that the medicine won't be created. That's why the guild warns against making the medicine by one's self when they post the request.

The most important part of the process is draining the blood. As much as possible one needs to drain the blood thoroughly. If this isn't done properly, then the quality will become bad… eh? Wait a moment. Couldn't I pull this off perfectly with the bloody slime?

They mentioned internal organs, so I thought it'd be necessary to deal with them and use them quickly, but apparently that's not the case. As you could just dry them and then preserve it. Normally, during this process, you'd have to nimbly use wind magic. Moreover, the quality will change depending on the speed of drying… So I guess I could just use alchemy for this part, right?

With alchemy, not only is the process simple, but there're a lot of benefits, and it's even possible to preserve it.

And regarding the request, if I don't take it, the only thing that will happen is that I won't be able to find a place to sell it, and the price will be easy to drive down. Getting the ingredients without taking the request is apparently fine, so I guess I could work this like an herb collection request, and just go grab some ingredients without taking the request.

As we talked like that, quite a bit of time had passed, and now it was about time for Raypin-san to go home. I sent him off, and then I went to check the store's income for the day before closing. Afterwards, I left.

Chapter 24

TL Note: Little help with this one please: 俺としちゃたまにみてっから初めてって気はしねぇなぁ。

When I got back to the lodging, I went to Elia's room. There, Araune let me in as usual, and served me black tea.

"Welcome, so did you manage to settle your discussion with the merchant guild?" [Madam]
"Yes, moreover, I've also already hired three new slave magic users today." [Ryouma]
"You've already hired them? Aren't you hurrying too much?" [Rheinhart]
"That may be so, but it's because I found some good people. The guild master also mentioned that it's fine, and I got her permission." [Ryouma]
"Ho… then I can guess it's fine." [Rheinbach]
"Also, they're all people who were demoted and were made to research slimes, so it seems they're quite eager to work. Like, 'We're gonna show them!' or something." [Ryouma]
"I see, so it's like that." [Rheinhart]
"Those kind might actually be more reliable than someone who'd try to put in reason, then try to keep up an appearance." [Madam]

After we finished talking about the store, Rheinhart-san began to talk about the grell frog outbreak. Looks like we'll be going to catch the grell frogs, and tame the rimel bird, the day after tomorrow.

The Next Day.

I show my face at the shop in the morning, and talk to them about tomorrow. There, Caulkins-san gave me some warning regarding the rimel birds. Apparently, Caulkins-san attempted to hunt it every year, so I couldn't' help but ask him if he wasn't going to try this year.

"It's already been decided that I'll be working at this shop, so it doesn't matter anymore." Said Caulkins-san as he showed me a cheerful face.

After that, I went to Serge-san's store to deliver the 70 sheets of cloth I made the day before yesterday.

"Welcome, Ryouma-sama." [Serge]
"Good morning, Serge-san. I came here to deliver the waterproof cloths." [Ryouma]
"Thank you very much. By the way, five people came here yesterday according to your referral. Also, there've also been others who would come from time to time, and buy your waders when they noticed it. Looks like it'll sell better than expected, especially to the adventurers." [Serge]

Come to think of it, I did walk in the town with that. Is it because of that?

"When I took a request to clean the latrine pits before, I walked around the town in those for days. I guess it must've caught on because I stood out." [Ryouma]
"That's most likely it. Everyone who came here to purchase it already knew about it, and I didn't have to explain it to them. With this, the demand might increase faster than planned." [Serge]
"I brought 70 sheets with me today, but I still have some headroom, so I'll try to see if I can increase the production rate. I should be able to increase it by expanding the workplace." [Ryouma]
"Thank you very much, but please do take care not to push yourself too much." [Serge]

Ah, so Serge-san's also heard about me overworking.

"Please rest assured, my store's already able to function by itself, and the longest part of the waterproof cloth's production is waiting for it to dry." [Ryouma]
"Then I guess it's fine, but…" [Serge]

As he said that, Serge-san looked at me doubtingly. Ignoring that, I brought out the waterproof cloths, and after confirming them, he paid me for the manufacturing cost. After I'd received the payment and the new untreated cloths, I went to the abandoned mine.

As soon as I got to the abandoned mine, I set the cloths, and immediately start the treatment for 70 of them.

During that, I went to a different level with the 2 earth slimes and the scavenger slimes, and I began constructing a new work place while I trained the earth slimes.

I had the earth slimes use 'Create Block' to dig a hole, while I had the scavenger slime's carry them. Then I used 'Pavement' to reinforce the walls. After preparing the tunnel, we made the room. After that, I took the sticky slimes that treated the cloths, and began to work on a new set.

Today, I managed to do double of last time's 70 at 140 sheets. The sticky slimes looked like they could still do more, but I stopped it around 150. It's not good to push them too hard.

I had the slimes work hard, so I decided not to train them today. Afterwards, I filled a vessel of stone I made with earth magic with water from my water magic, and then I gave it to the slimes. Ahh, it's slow, but they swarmed over me.

At that time, a thought popped up in my mind. Will slimes other than the earth slimes and the dark slime also absorb magic?

As I thought that, I began to release neutral magic power. In response to that, the other slimes also began to absorb it. However, it's different from the vigor the dark slime and the earth slimes show when absorbing.

As I changed the attribute of the magic power I released, I found out that the acid slimes, the sticky slimes, and the bloody slime, all had a preference for neutral magic. The poison slime had a preference for poison magic power, while the metal slimes and the iron slimes had a preference for earth magic power.

But what was surprising to me, is that the cleaner slimes and the scavenger slimes had a preference for two attributes. The cleaner slimes, water and light. While the scavenger slimes liked earth and dark magic power. It seems it's possible for some slimes to like more than one attribute.

As for the healer slimes, they also had a preference for the three attributes, neutral, water, and light. But it would appear that they liked healing magic the most. I wonder why these are the only ones who prefer magic over magic power. 'Well, I guess it's fine since it'll also be practice for my healing magic.' Is what I was thinking, but then all of the sudden, the heal slimes became ready for a split! So magic power can also serve as nourishment? I'll have to verify this later.

For the meantime, I had them split, and then I contracted them.

Like this, the 2 heal slimes became 4.

After that, in order to prepare for the rimel bird tomorrow, I took out the guitar I made during the time I lived in the forest. I tightened its strings, and then I practiced a bit.

It's been a while, but I can still play to some extent. It would be great if I could tame it with this, but… well, whatever will be, will be, right? If it doesn't go well, then I could just go look for a different bird-type.

After that, I killed time until the cloths finished drying. Then I took the finished cloths, went back to the town, and delivered them as usual to Serge's shop. With this, I've apparently finished populating the inventory for the waterproof cloth for the time being. Serge-san said that it will also take time to create the products, so for the meantime there won't be a need for me to deliver new ones.

As expected though, I think he's being anxious and is trying not to push me too much. Even though it's the slimes who do all the work…

I'll just store up the remaining cloths after finishing them then.

After I stepped out of Serge-san's store, I looked up at the sky and thought.

"… I finished the job at a tricky time again, huh?" [Ryouma]

Even if I went back home now, there's nothing to do. And there's also no time left to go back to the mine and train… At times like this, I guess it's best to go to the church.

This time when I got to the church, the one at the gate was the woman from when I had my status board made.

"Ara, aren't you the one from…" [Woman]
"Thank you for before." [Ryouma]
"Welcome, what business do you have here today?" [Woman]
"Today, I came here to pray." [Ryouma]
"I see, then in that case, please follow me." [Woman]

I was again brought to the chapel with plenty of chairs. And just like before, I grabbed a chair, put my hands together, and prayed.....Hmm?

Huh? I thought I'd be sent to the god's world again as usual, but nothing happened. Then again, I guess it's stranger if I were to go there all the time.

As I thought that, in the next instant, my surrounding became white.

"!? This is...? So I guess I did end up coming here today as well. But still, there was a rather weird pause, huh?" [Ryouma]
"My bad, my bad, I normally don't use my power, so it looks like it took some time." [God]

To my mutterings, a voice came from behind me.

When I turned my head, I saw a thick haired man with a small stature standing there with a wine barrel on his right shoulder as he drank from a bottle with his left. It's the God of Wine!

"The God of Wine, Tekun-sama?" [Ryouma]

After he separated his lips form his wine bottle, he answered, "Yeah, I'm Tekun. You don't need to be formal with me. After all, I am a god, I can see your heart, so there's no point in keeping up that courtesy. Besides, it's a pain, so you can also just call me Tekun. Anyway, take a seat."

Now that he mentions it, there's certainly no point when the person you're talking to is a god who can read your mind. I continue just like Tekun told me to, and I sat in that place.

"Then I'll proceed as usual… Nice to meet you, I'm Ryouma Takebayashi. Thank you for your divine protection." [Ryouma]
"You don't have to mind the divine protection, I just give it from time to time when I find someone interesting. It just so happens that it's you." [Tekun]

As Tekun said that, he drank some liquor from his bottle.

"Are you the only one here today?" [Ryouma]
"Yeah, everyone else is passing the time by doing whatever they want. The God of War, the God of Magic, and the God of Land all can't be seen aside from this completely white place, but they all have their own comfortable spaces. There they created, what you would call in human terms, a house, and are living in it." [Tekun]
"I see, I didn't know that. Or rather, is this your house?" [Ryouma]
"Nah, I don't have a house. I am the God of Wine and Craftsmen, and amongst wines and craftsmen there are several kinds of places, so I just wander there." [Tekun]
"You wander there?" [Ryouma]
"This may be the divine realm, but it is still connected to the world you live in…… I can't explain it well though, so you should have someone else explain it to you. But that aside, drink." [Tekun]

Tekun took a cup full of liquor from the air and gave it to me. Rather than calling it a cup though, I guess calling it a goblet is more appropriate. The goblet is silver in color, and it has several silver and small precious stones decorating it here and there.

"Cheers!!"
"Cheers!"

After toasting vigorously, I drank. There, my mouth was filled with the sweetness of an extremely delicious liquor.

"This is delicious." [Ryouma]
"This is fruit wine made from the mixture of the fruit and honey of the flowers raised in a land that's received the god of land's divine protection. Naturally, it's delicious." [Tekun]
"Ho… Could I get some to take back with me? And would it be possible to also get a land with that kind of divine protection?" [Ryouma]
"What, did you think you wouldn't be able to get this wine because it was dedicated to god? As for divine protections, I can't give divine protections to anything except people, but the God of Land can give divine protections to lands. Also, the Gayn you know used to give divine protection to everything in this world, you know? After all, that guy's the God of Creation." [Tekun]

"Well, nowadays though, after the living things of this world had grown and changed, the places were Gayn could give divine protection have become less and less. The same is true for me, but there are also times when I take away the divine protection. For example, when a passionate blacksmith does his best and I come to like him and give him my divine protection. But then he suddenly becomes lazy. At a time like that, I'll want to take his divine protection away." [Tekun]

As Tekun said that, he took another sip from his bottle.

"By the way, would you happen to know where Gayn and the others have been going to lately?" [Tekun]
"Where they're going?" [Ryouma]
"Yeah, I haven't seen them a lot lately, and there are plenty of times when they just suddenly disappear. It's not like there's a lot to do, so it's fine, but I'm concerned." [Tekun]
"Even if you tell me that… I can't come here unless they call me, and even when we…" [Ryouma]

There, I suddenly thought of the last time I came here and chatted with Kufo.

“It’s possible that they might have come to my previous world.” [Ryouma]
“Yours? What was it? Earth?” [Tekun]
“Yes, yes, that’s right. Kufo said it when I came here last. Apparently Gayn and the others are going sightseeing in Earth.” [Ryouma]
“Haa!? Sightseeing in another world!? What on earth are those guys doing!?” [Tekun]

Tekun couldn’t help but yell as he was surprised.

“Is it strange?” [Ryouma]
“It is. Normally, gods won’t meddle with worlds other than the world they’re affiliated with. People with your case are a very special exception. So there’s no way we can go there for something as mundane as sightseeing.” [Tekun]
“But that’s what Kufo said the last time we met, so I don’t think I’m mistaken. Apparently, Gayn took a liking to the Japanese idols, and Rurutia’s going around eating sweets. As for Kufo he’s going around the secluded regions of the planet.” [Ryouma]

When Tekun heard that, he began to think.

“What’s going on? You’re telling the truth, right? I don’t know much about idols, but…” [Tekun]
“Yeah, I’m not lying.” [Ryouma]
“While it’s not like it’s impossible to go there, but… normally the god on the other side will get mad. To begin with, nothing like this has happened until you got here, you know? … Unless!!?” [Tekun]

All of the sudden, Tekun made an angry expression as he stood up.

“What’s wrong!?” [Ryouma]
“Those bastards… they wouldn’t have actually made a deal with the god on the other side to sightsee just because they had too much free time, would they? The ones that have nothing to do aren’t only them, and yet… they’re the only ones having fun!?” [Tekun]

As Tekun trembled all over, he quickly took the wine on the ground and carried it, and then screamed.

“This isn’t the time for this! I’m definitely gonna find those guys!” [Tekun]

As he said that he began to run, so in a panic I called out to him.

“W-Wait! What about me!?” [Ryouma]
“Ah–sorry… just pass the time like that, eventually you’ll go back. It’s fine even if you take some with you. As long as you pour magic power into that goblet it will produce wine, so don’t worry about running out. Sorry, but I’m in a hurry right now, see ya!” [Tekun]
“W– eh? Fast!?” [Ryouma]

Tekun ran so fast he couldn’t be seen. Or rather, the pace doesn’t really match with the short distance. Ahh, I already can’t see him… I really was left behind, huh?

“Then, what should I do with this? Being left alone here… I guess I’ll drink some for the meantime.” [Ryouma]

I take a sip.

“Yep, it’s definitely delicious. Still, I kind of want some snack to go with this too.” [Ryouma]

Unfortunately, there's only a liquor and a goblet in this place. He told me that if I put magic power into this thing, liquor will come out, but even then what's the point if snacks don't come out too? Hmm? But if I can use magic power, then I guess I can also use magic.

As I thought that, I tried opening my 'Item Box'.

"'Item Box'."

A black orifice opened in the air. Looks like I can use 'Item Box'.

"I was able to use it… So I guess it doesn't have anything to do with the place? Well, whatever. Let me see if I can get something I can use as snack… there's nothing else aside from food ingredients and fruits, huh? Recently, I've started to put everything in the refrigerator in the store… sigh." [Ryouma]

I take out my things from the 'Item Box' but I couldn't find any food. While I was doing that, the time to go home came as light started to illuminate.

Not good! If I don't clean up now!! I drink the liquor in gulp, and put everything away in a hurry. In any case, I need to put everything back as fast as I can!

After I finish putting everything back, the light became stronger as soon as I closed my 'Item Box'. Next thing I knew, I was back in my world.

"A–Ah… Is it a safe?" [Ryouma]

I quickly check my 'Item Box', and as I checked my things one by one, I was relieved…

For the meantime, I guess I'll go out. Afterwards, I gave some donations, then I left the church.

…Come to think of it, I drank that last cup in one gulp, huh? Uwaah, I did something really wasteful… It would have been better if I just drank it slowly without looking for snack…

That liquor was really delicious. Because of that, I felt a bit regretful.

And so, as I went back home while feeling a little down.

Chapter 25

TL Note: Emotional Resistance can also be read as Mental Resistance.

Edit: 2015/07/30 Fixed some naming errors.
Edit: 2015/08/01 Fixed a minor mistranslated line.

The Next Day.

The time to catch the grell frogs and tame the rimel birds has finally come. And because of that, me and the four members of the duke's family, along with Sebasu-san, Jill-san, Zeff-san, Camil-san, and Hyuzu-san, are all walking towards the mine.

Elia and the others are all wearing armor just like the time when Elia went to the mine to train. As for me, I'm wearing a jumpsuit. Because of that, it kind of feels out of place, since I'm the only one wearing something different.

We're not using the carriage today as another part of Elia's training, but, unexpectedly, Elia might actually have more endurance than I thought. Although we're taking a break right now, she hasn't said a word of complaint until now.

"Fuu… Ryouma-san, are you ok?" [Elia]
"I'm alright." [Ryouma]
"Ryouma-san has plenty of stamina, huh?" [Elia]

Elia began to feel down. Honestly, it's not like I mind the fact that you're tired, you know? After all, we're walking up a mountain, and because there's no pavement, it's quite difficult to walk. The fact that you're not complaining is already more than good enough.

Apparently Camil-san thought the same thing, because he went to encourage her.

"It's alright, Ojousama. Compared to other children, Ojousama can already walk very well." [Camil]
"That's right, Ojousama. Don't compare yourself to Ryouma. After all, this guy's a little bit abnormal. Normally, it wouldn't be weird to have been completely exhausted since way back. Seriously, Ryouma, you should at least try to sweat or something." [Jill]
"Even if you tell me to sweat…" [Ryouma]

It's a physiological phenomenon, so…

"Young master, a normal kid would usually perspire without being told, you know?" [Zeff]
"You're matching the Ojousama's pace, so it's not that fast. So I can kind of understand when you've also been trained like us, but… What kind of training did you do?" [Camil]
"If I were to put it simply, I trained to my limits. When I collapsed, I'd rest. It's not weird to get wounds either, as I was beat up continuously to drive the techniques into me. And I was only given two choices, either to suffer, or to keep on training. Anyway, I kept this up every day, and in the end this is how I ended up." [Ryouma]
"Is your master a demon or something!?" [Jill]
"Yeah, that might be it." [Ryouma]

My dad was really quite scary when I was a kid… so much so, that when he was around I couldn't breathe because of the pressure.

While I was thinking that, Rheinbach-sama mentioned that it's time to depart.

"It's almost time for break to end. We need to start walking again before Elia completely cools down." [Rheinbach]
"It's just a little bit more, so do your best, Elia." [Rheinhart]

We began walking again. And after 30 minutes of walking, the road led us to a forest and we pushed our way through. After another 30 minutes, a foul odor wafted to our noses. So this is the smell of the swamp.

As I thought that, we went even further, and eventually a reddish brown swamp came to view. It was around the boundary of the forest and the mine. And although we're inside a forest, the number of trees were few, and it feels like the swamp was made from the debris of the cave after it had collapse because of the rain or something. As we got closer, the foul smell became stronger. To this, Elia covered her nose with her hand, and tried to endure.

"So this is the rumored swamp. It would appear that the smell is coming from the fallen leaves and the rotting corpses of the creatures that live in the swamp." [Ryouma]
"What a horrible smell…" [Elia]
"The smell here is certainly bad, however, you also need to learn how to get used to this kind of environment. Since the towns outside of the Jamil's territory have it worse." [Madam]

Come to think of it, Rheinbach-sama did take care of the Jamil Household's territory's environment, so it's quite better than others… wait, does that mean that all the other territory aside from here are… let's pray that's not the case.

"Fumu, looks like there still aren't any grell frogs and rimel birds around here. Well, there're several swamps, so let's go around and look for others." [Rheinbach]

At Rheinbach-sama's words, we began to move again. And after 10 minutes of walking, we found a swamp, 3 times bigger than the last. Over there were 30 adventurers and slave magic users, and over 200 blue birds.

"They're here! Those are rimel birds!" [Rheinbach]
"That's…" [Ryouma]
"They're beautiful…" [Elia]

Its appearance is close to a long-tailed cock without a cockscomb. And its body is blue, while its tail and head are adorned with beautiful green feathers. I have to agree, it's definitely the popular type. Along with the reddish brown swamp, it's mysteriously pretty.

It's really beautiful, but because of that, I think the adventurers around here will get in the way.

"Let's go there!" [Adventurer1]
"Hurry, catch it!" [Adventurer2]
"Ah!?" [Adventurer3]
"Hurry! Before it gets eaten!" [Adventurer4]

The adventurers entered the swamp, and they struggled with the rimel birds for the grell frogs.

While the rough men were being bathed in mud, I saw the sight of obscured frogs with the same reddish color as the swamp, be caught by men with a net barehanded... and it felt extremely sweltering to watch. At a time like that, two young men prepared some musical instruments by the side of the swamp.

"You two watch carefully, those guys are about to try taming a rimel bird." [Rheinhart]

One of the two men began to play a flute. His instrument looked like a recorder. But, unfortunately, he isn't that good.

As soon as the music ended, the rimel birds all simultaneously sang. The noise the birds made was as if they were laughing and mocking the humans.

According to the information I received from Caulkins-san, when the rimel birds do not acknowledge your performance, they'll release a warning sound. And that warning sound is extremely unpleasant.

So it's like this, huh? Certainly, it's not something pleasant to hear… But I guess this is something that happens often, since the adventurers who are trying to catch the grell frogs aren't minding it.

"I think you two already understand, but yes, this is a failure. Like this, he won't be able to tame one. You can try again as many times as you want, but if you try too many times, they'll end up attacking you, so it's better to just do it once. And at most, twice." [Rheinhart]

While Rheinhart-san was explaining, the other man began to play the flute. This one's worse than the other one… This time, before he even finished playing, the rimel birds already started laughing.

I guess he got mad when he heard that, because he took out a short sword that looks to be for self-defense. As the man entered the swamp, he moved towards a rimel bird.

"Not good… don't let your guard down." [Rheinbach]
"Ha!" [The four guards.]

At Rheinbach-sama's words, the four guards stepped forward. Even Sebasu-san and Rheinhart-san was vigilant. And the madam went near me and Elia.

"Gua! Hi, Hii!!" [Man]

I wonder if it's because it felt danger to the man who drew close to it that it fired off the wind magic 'Wind Cutter'. In any case, that attack only lightly grazed the shoulder of the man, but the other rimel birds also looked at the man. At that point, the man's anger from a while ago vanished, and was instead changed to fear and panic. The man quickly began to run with all his strength. And the people around him also began to run.

Behind the man, several rimel birds fired off 'Wind Cutter' at his back. Their accuracy apparently wasn't that good, and they missed. But the man became desperate as he ran.

"Don't be like that guy. The rimel birds are gentle, but they're not weak. If you do something like that, you'll be hated, and they'll attack you." Said the madam as she warned me and Elia

… That guy is coming over here… that's not good!

When the man got to the edge of the swamp, he relaxed for a bit, causing him to stop moving for a moment. There, a rimel bird fired off its 'Wind Cutter'. That attack grazed the man's leg, causing him to become unable to run. When we saw that, Camil and I both casted our magic at the same time.

"'Earth Wall'!!" [Camil & Ryouma]

A wall made out of earth was erected between the man and the rimel bird. But in order to chase after the man, the rimel birds fired off several dozen 'Wind Cutter's. The surface of the wall was scraped off, but it was able to stop the attack.

At that, they stopped firing off the 'Wind Cutter', but in the next moment, they all began to chirp.

“Kuke! Kuke!! Kuke!!! Kuke!!!!”
“Kyaaa!” [Elia]
“Gu!?” [Rheinhart]
“This is!?” [Ryouma]
“Everyone, be careful!!” [Rheinhart]

Everyone suddenly began to hurt. And once Elia began to shake, the Madam and Sebasu-san hurriedly went to support her.

What’s going on!?

Looking at my surrounding, I saw that the adventurers were also in pain even though they shouldn’t be able to hear this sound well. Some of them even began to crouch and scream as if they’d lost their minds. I can also feel some magic power accompanying the voice, so I guess the cause must be this cry.

When I searched for the location of the magic power and the sound, I immediately managed to find the culprit. Looks like it’s somewhat similar to my wind magic, ‘Big Voice’, in that it also manipulates the air to make the sound louder in the surroundings.

Then in that case, all I need to do is stop the oscillation of the air.

“‘Silent’!” [Ryouma]

Aiming at the source, I fired off my magic. At that moment, the sound stopped, and Rheinhart-san and the others stopped hurting.

Effective… but painful.

The other side was causing the oscillations to increase with magic, while I did the opposite with my own magic. We’re both doing opposite things, so the victor will be decided by the one who has more control. If I lose focus, the sound will come out again.

Our control is equal…? No, it’s gradual, but I’m being pushed! Then in that case, I have no choice but to push through with my magic power! I chant the same magic again, but this time with more magic power.

“‘Silent’!” [Ryouma]

It tried to resist for a bit more, but the rimel bird quickly left after it realized it was at a disadvantage. The other rimel birds also left. Is it over?

“Camil! Heal that man! Jill, Zeff, Hyuzu! Bring the fainted adventurers to the edge of the swamp! Sebasu, how is Elia?” [Rheinhart]

Rheinhart-san gave orders, then he asked Sebasu-san about Elia’s status. But before Sebasu-san could talk, Elia replied.

“I’m… fine.” [Elia]
“Elia, are you ok? You don’t feel hurt anywhere?” [Rheinhart]
“Yes… I was just scared all of the sudden… but that’s all. I’ve already calmed down.” [Elia]
“I see. Then, that’s good… Ryouma-kun, thank you. That was you a while ago, right?” [Rheinhart]
“The rimel bird was the cause, right? I certainly stopped it, but what was going on?” [Ryouma]
“Huh?” [Madam and Elia]

Elia's and Madam's voice leaked out.

"Ryouma-san, didn't you feel anything?" [Elia]
"Nothing in particular… I did think that it was noisy, though. But that aside, I was quite shocked when all of the sudden everyone around started to faint and hurt. I felt strong magic power coming from that one rimel bird, so I figured that was the culprit, but I honestly have no idea what just happened." [Ryouma]
"Noisy? That's all?" [Madam]
"Yes." [Ryouma]

Hearing my response, the madam cocked her head in puzzlement. At that, Rheinbach-sama and Sebasu-san explained it to me.

"The rimel bird that Ryouma-kun stopped wasn't just a rimel bird. That was a higher type known as, Nightmare Rimel Bird. These type of rimel birds can use dark magic on top of their wind magic. And their most prominent special feature is that their crying voice is accompanied by a mental attack as a byproduct of the dark element." [Rheinbach]
"When one hears a nightmare rimel bird's cry, one will be afflicted with fear, confusion, and insanity. Moreover, there are also people who will see an illusion and end up fainting, just like those guys." [Sebasu]

As Sebasu-san said that, he pointed at the people Jill-san and the others were carrying. Half of them were seated, while there were those who were unconscious, and then those who were crouching while shivering in fear.

"Seeing them like this, this is quite cruel…" [Ryouma]
"That just goes to show how strong a mental attack it is. Physical strength and mental strength are different, so it's possible even for veteran adventurers to lose consciousness. And in their case, they're beginners, so it's a given that they'd end up like that." [Sebasu]
"No matter how much you train, what's painful is still painful. Well, you'll be able to resist though." [Rheinbach]

Come to think of it, I possess the 'Mental Resist' skill at level 9. So I guess it must be that.

"I have the 'Mental Resist' skill so it might be because of that." [Ryouma]

As I said that, the puzzled madam suddenly went, "That's it!" and was suddenly in full understanding.

So it's really the effect of my skill. Apparently, my skill level's so high, I didn't feel anything. Still, I have to be careful… mental attacks can't be seen by the eyes after all. And while I didn't suffer any of the effects, it's not like I have any countermeasure for it.

And while it's good that there wasn't effect on me, it's also not good that it was to the extent where I didn't feel it all, and ended up not even knowing that I was under attack.

After a while, Jill-san and the others came back. Looks like they're finished helping those people.

"What's their status?" [Rheinhart]
"The only one injured is the one who started all this. Moreover, he's already received treatment, so there won't be any problem, and he'll be able to come back to the town." [Jill]
"Still, what should we do? All of the rimel birds ran away because of all the commotion." [Zeff]
"Look for their nest?" [Ryouma]
"That's difficult, young master. After all, the rimel birds ride on wind magic when they fly in the air. So the speed and altitude they fly at is at a different level compared to other magical beasts. Like this, the area's too wide, and it won't be easy to find them." [Zeff]
"That's why people who want to tame them wait here. I don't know if they'll come again today, so… are we going to wait?" [Rheinhart]
"We'll wait. We came all the way out here after all. So I'd at least like to try taming them once." [Elia]

At Elia's words, we decided to wait here for a bit more. While we waited, the adventurers at the edge of the swamp slowly recovered, and even the people who had lost their consciousness had woken up.

I don't know if it's because they don't feel like hunting anymore, or because the duke's household and its guards are here, but before we knew it, we ended up all alone. We created some stone chairs at a place that's slightly distant from the swamp, sat there, and chatted.

During that, I found out that while the nightmare rimel bird's mental attack is strong, the reason it's really strong is because in order to stop it you'd have to attack with magic, or use a weapon. But then if you did that, the other rimel birds will attack you, at which point it'll turn into a desperate situation. In order to avoid that, the only way is to resist, or try to run.

My magic wasn't an attack, and it only stopped the sound, so it's ok. It's really good that I was able to hear from the duke's family and Caulkins-san not to hurt the rimel birds. Also, the rimel bird's higher type is apparently a really rare magical beast. And in fact, it was last seen 10 years ago. It seems like my luck's quite good, since it was thanks to my mental resistance that I was able to see the bird clearly and was able to properly use my magic.

That rimel bird's body was slightly darker than the others. But although I say dark, it's more like a strong color… like deep blue and green. It feels kind of high class.

And then, while we were passing the time while chatting, all of the sudden the atmosphere became dreary.

"I'll have to leave Ryouma-san soon, huh?" [Elia]

Elia and the others came here to see the rimel bird, and try taming it. That's why it could be said that they had already mostly completed their purpose for coming to this town. All that's left is to go home. And Elia's concerned about that.

… What should I say? I mean, it's true that I'll also be lonely, but… If I said, "Right…," then that's just too unfeeling. But then if I went, "Don't go!" then she'll just be like, "It's disgusting to be told that by a 40 year old uncle!!" I mean it might be alright from how I look on the outside, but mentally speaking it's really not." How about, "We'll meet again."? Yeah, this'll do. I'd really like to say something more effective, but unfortunately…

As I thought that, the madam said, "Elia, It's not like you won't meet again. Right, Ryouma-kun?"

While I was thinking, the madam said it before I was able to.

"Of course." [Ryouma]
"If you send letters to each other, then you'll be able to find out how each other's doing." [Rheinbach]
"Right! We can still meet again! Ryouma-san, please write to me, and I'll also write to you!" [Elia]
"Then, let's do that." [Ryouma]
"Idiot! If you're a man, then you should at least hug her!" [Hyuzu]

As Hyuzu-san said that, he hit my back with full strength. Because of that, I almost fell off my chair.

"Uwaah! What are you doing? Or rather, what are you thinking!? Aren't you the bodyguard!? Normally you'd be stopping me! Not encouraging!" [Ryouma]
"Huh? I'm obviously doing this because it's interesting!" [Hyuzu]

As he said that, he gave me a thumbs up along with a smile.

"Guo!? Y-You…" [Ryouma]

Somehow I felt a little irritated, so I hit him a bit. After that, I turned around, and my eyes met with Elia. Elia's face was slightly red… You know it's a bit troubling if you give me that kind of reaction… I thought the Madam would save us, but when I took a look at her, she was just watching over us. Or rather, she looks like she's enjoying this…

"Hey… what… are you… gufu…" Asked, Hyuzu-san as he held his stomach while crouching because of the pain.

"Ah… I'm just hiding my embarrassment." [Ryouma]

This is crossing the line, even if I do say so myself… and although it was a spur of the moment, isn't this a bit cruel?

"Don't hit me just because you're shy! … Ow, ow, ow… why does it hurt so much when you hit me while I was wearing armor. It hurts…" [Hyuzu]
"It's that kind of skill is why." [Ryouma]

It's a technique that allows the force to pass through inside for the special case where one needs to fight with an opponent who is wearing an armor. Naturally, it'd hurt.

… No good, my tension's also gotten weird… Calm down, me!

In the meanwhile, the atmosphere became delicate.

"……" [Ryouma]
"……" [Elia]
"……" [Ryouma]
"……" [Elia]
"Pirorororororo!!" [Something]
"What!?' [Ryouma]
"Fue!?" [Elia]

That delicate atmosphere was cut apart with a whistling sound.

When we looked over where the sound was coming from, we saw a group of rimel birds headed here.

Chapter 26

I was speechless when I saw the flock of rimel birds flying. The sight of the rimel birds spreading their wings and fluttering their tails, with the mine as their back drop, as they descended down to the swamp was so beautiful that I even forgot to breathe.

As they descended, each one of them went after the grell frogs to feed on. It feels like there's a bit more of them compared to before, but it doesn't feel like they came here for revenge.

For the meantime it doesn't feel like there's any danger, however, one of the birds within that flock has been staring at me this entire time. It's the nightmare variant from before. That bird's been staring at me all this time without eating anything. It hasn't even moved its gaze from me once. I wonder if it's cautious because of what happened before.

I noticed from behind me that Elia had already taken her musical instrument from Sebasu-san. Hmm… I might actually get in the way if I stay here.

"Rheinhart-san" [Ryouma]
"What is it?" [Rheinhart]
"I'll take my leave for a moment. That higher variant from before has been looking at me all this time, so I might get in Elia's way if I'm…" [Ryouma]
"I don't mind." [Elia]

As I was talking, Elia interjected.

"One must tame a magical beast while facing it. For me to actually blame my failure just because Ryouma-san is here… what an absurd excuse. I won't say something like that." [Elia]

Different from her normal aura, right now Elia was emanating an aura full of dignity.

"Moreover, I would like Ryouma-san to watch me while I tame. So please stay there. It's really reassuring to have you here, Ryouma-san." Said Elia as she showed me her usual smile.

… Well if you tell me something like that, then there's no way I'd be able to leave.

"I understand. Do your best." [Ryouma]
"I will!" [Elia]

After words of encouragement naturally left my lips, I went behind Elia.

Elia took a deep breath several times, then she began her performance.

Just like before, Elia played a calm and comfortable melody. Her piece started quietly, and then gradually it became stronger and stronger. The notes she played changed like the ever changing size of the sea's waves. But whether it was strong or soft, the notes echoed clearly throughout the marshland without pause.

The rimel birds began to sway from left to right as they matched the song. Their behavior, a far cry from their reaction to the two men before. Elia's music continued like that, and eventually it ended calmly.

"…" [Elia]

Elia nervously looked at the rimel birds. But the next instant, all of the rimel birds simultaneously started chirping.

This sound was different from their mocking chirps from before. Right now, their voices resounded like pianos and harps. It wasn't noise, no. Far from that, their echoing voices were like a musical performance.

That performance continued for a minute, and eventually a beautiful rimel bird flew towards Elia, with 8 more following from behind.

When Elia saw that, she was petrified.

"Elia! The contract! Contract them!" [Ryouma]
"Right!" [Elia]

Elia, having seemingly forgotten, began to contract the rimel birds one after another at my words. From the looks of things, it looks like she was able to successfully tame them. As Elia finished, she began to contract the last rimel bird, the most beautiful of them all. When she succeeded, she shouted cheers of happiness.

"I did it!" [Elia]
"Good job!" [Rheinhart]
"You did well." [Rheinbach]
"That's great, Elia." [Madam]
"Congratulations." [Ryouma]
"Congratulations, Ojousama." [Sebasu]

Elia was able to tame 9 rimel birds in total. Just taming one should've been difficult, and yet… Who could've thought that she would actually be able to tame so many?

"Please look at all these pretty children I've tamed!" [Elia]

Surrounded by the rimel birds, Elia was in high spirits as she caressed the rimel birds while she crouched. The rimel birds also seemed to have become emotionally attached as you can even see some standing on her knees and on her shoulders.

It's sad that when I saw that, I was reminded of the scene of opening a bag of bird feeds, and all the birds crowding over it. Really, why am I remembering something so useless, when I'm seeing such a touching scene like this?

In fact, this scene is so touching you could paint it, and name it, "The Frolicking Beauty and the Flock of Birds." I guess it's only natural to think that though. Well then, should I try to ride on this flow, and try it for myself? As I brought out my guitar from my 'Item Box', Elia looked at me, as if she had just suddenly been woken up.

"Ryouma-san, is that a musical instrument? You're also going to tame?" [Elia]
"I'm not as good as you, but I thought I'd try just like you did." [Ryouma]
"Please do your best!" [Elia]
"Do your best, Ryouma-kun" [Rheinhart]
"We're expecting good news." [Rheinbach]

As everyone encouraged me, I did my preparations. And just like Elia, I took a deep breath.

To tell you the truth, I haven't really properly learned the guitar. I just happened to receive an instructional book and a guitar from a neighbor when he decided to move. Apparently, he didn't need it anymore. So I played the guitar from time to time to pass the time, while I learned the chords from the book. I just played it because I felt like it, that's all. And although I may not be comparable to Elia's skill, I'll do my best.

And so, the sound of the guitar echoed throughout the marshland. My choice of piece is something I heard from the TV in my previous world. I didn't buy the sheets or anything, I just learned it by intuition and practice. In fact, it's probably already completely different from the original piece. But even then, I don't mind.

My music isn't that good, but it's not that bad either. And while I'm not really all that confident about this, I still think it's better for me to play it cheerfully. And so, just like with Elia's, the rimel birds also began to sway.

Did they come to like it? It's kind of interesting seeing them like this.

When the piece ended, the rimel birds quietly stood, unmoving, for a few seconds. And then, just like before, they began chirping as if they were singing. Afterwards, six rimel birds flew over. But what was surprising was that one of them was the higher variant from before. Wasn't it cautious of me?

"Ryouma-san, contract them!" [Elia]

Oops, I also got stupefied there for a bit.

I quickly tamed them all, one after another. And without any hitch, I was able to succeed.

"Fuu… Success." [Ryouma]

At my words, applause and congratulations erupted from the people around me.

"Congratulations, Ryouma-san!" [Elia]
"It's good that you were both able to succeed." [Rheinhart]
"Congratulations, Ryouma-sama." [Sebasu]
"You did it, young master." [Zeff]
"Even though taming rimel birds is supposed to be very difficult, you two did really well to manage taming several of them!" [Madam]

As the madam said that, everyone's eyes moved towards the rimel birds we had caught. The nightmare rimel bird I had and Elia's prettiest bird seemed to get along, as they flew through the sky and jumped on the earth.

That rimel bird is really pretty. The six I'd caught are also pretty, but that one is even prettier as some parts of its color feels like it's shining.

Sebasu-san, seeming to have realized something, said, "… Ojousama, Ryouma-sama, how about calling those two over and using 'Monster Identify' on them?" [Sebasu]

Elia was a bit puzzled, but she immediately called hers over and used 'Monster Identify' on it. When she called hers back, mine also came back, but it parked itself on my head. Why my head? Oh well, it's not like its heavy so whatever.

"Eh!?" [Elia]

While I was minding the bird on my head, Elia let out a shocked voice.

"What's wrong?" [Ryouma]
"This child isn't a rimel bird! It's a higher class!" [Elia]

What!? Wasn't the higher variant of the rimel bird only seen once in 10 years!?

"Really!? Its color is different from mine, but…" [Ryouma]
"Yes, but it's not a nightmare rimel bird. This rimel bird is called, Phantom Rimel Bird. And it doesn't use dark

magic, but light magic instead." [Elia]
"There was something like that?" [Ryouma]

I just thought it was strange, but Sebasu-san and the others were speechless because of shock. After they came back to their sense, they seemed so happy that they looked like they'd toss Elia into the air as they showered her with praise.

After they had all calmed down, they explained. Apparently, the phantom rimel bird is also a higher variant of the rimel bird, but it's even rarer than the nightmare bird as it's only been seen once in 50 years.

Seriously!?

After that, we went to the swamp to catch some grell frogs as per Elia's training, however, everyone's attention was on the rimel birds. Honestly, it's more like everyone's already forgotten that we came here for Elia's training.

The grell frogs are actually quite easy to catch as long as you don't mind the smell. It's so easy it feels like they're losing on purpose. But because of that, we ended up catching a lot. It's also easy because there's no one else here aside from us. Otherwise, the struggle for the grell frogs would be harder.

After we finished catching the grell frogs, we all went out of the swamp. And then with the help of the cleaner slimes, we all cleaned ourselves… Umm, I wonder if this is ok for training. Didn't we come here with the purpose of getting used to filth? Well Elia's slime will also eventually turn into a cleaner slime, so I guess it's fine?

Actually, I don't know, but no one's stopping it, so whatever.

Having finished our work, we were about to go home, but before we did, we rested for a bit.

The madam and Elia were both surrounded by our rimel birds. Rheinhart-san enviously looked on at that scene from a slightly distant place. I had heard that he didn't get along with bird-type magical beasts, but who would've thought that just by being near them they would threaten him?!

Rheinbach-sama ordered Sebasu-san to use 'Warp' in order to go back to the town quickly, so he could have Araune-san and the others prepare a feast. Because of that, when our break ended, and we went back to our lodging, a sumptuous, feast with plenty of spices complemented by high class wine was waiting for us.

Naturally, it ended up becoming a banquet with me and Elia being its leading actors. And Rheinbach-san and the others praised us plenty while we ate.

As soon as Elia said she was full, she became engrossed in talking with everyone. As for me, I couldn't help but eat everything in front of me because of my frugal spirit. I thought it'd be a waste if the food and liquor just ended up thrown away, so in the end, I ended up eating and drinking too much.

It's been a while since I'd eaten like this… Still, it's kind of different from my previous life.

There were also times when I drank while being surrounded like this, but it wasn't this fun. The food from my previous life should be more delicious, but today, it feels as if the food here is more delicious. The wine too.

…Come to think of it, Tekun-sama did say that I didn't enjoy drinking in my previous life. I guess this is what he means by enjoying drinking. Anyway, I guess I'll pray to Tekun today.

After the banquet ended, I asked for some of the remaining high class wine to use as an offering, and then I went back to my room.

It’s my second party since coming back to this world, but unlike my previous world, the parties here are fun. Thank you. This is something I received, but please let me use this as an offering.

… Something like this? Anyway, I face the statue and bow my head, and then I decided to sleep.

I’m feeling good today, so I think I’ll be able to sleep well.

Chapter 27

TL Note: Kept hearing this at chapter end (for those who can't see the vid, try this). Also, regarding the translations, there are three terms that are introduced in this story that are closely related in meaning, but are not the same. I just want to clarify that I'm not just using synonyms to describe the same thing.

The three terms are: Magic Gem, Magic Stone, and Magic Jewel. In Japanese they are 魔宝石(mahouseki), 魔法石(mahouseki), and 魔石(maseki) respectively. These terms do not refer to the same thing. It'll be made clear in the story, but I just wanted to point it out to make it clear that they are not the same thing.

Also, take note of the fact that the first two terms are homophones. I've put the kanjis in parentheses to show when the characters are misunderstanding.

The Next Day.

As I visited Elia's room first thing in the morning, what greeted me there was a number of groaning adults.

"Ugh… sorry, Ryouma-kun… but could you… get me some medicine… again?" [Rheinhart]
"Me too. I ended up drinking too much despite my age." [Rheinbach]
"Me too please…" [Madam]

They were in high spirits yesterday, so they ended up drinking too much. And taking a closer look, I could see that even Araune-san's and Lilian-san's countenances were slightly unpleasant. They drank a little since everyone was in a festive mood, but despite having drunk so little, they're already like this. They're probably not good with liquor.

But Sebasu-san is different. He drank so much, and yet he isn't any different from usual. As for Elia, she wasn't allowed to drink more than one glass, so she's not suffering from any hangover.

I use 'Warp' and go to the pharmacy and the green grocer to buy some ingredients. Then afterwards, I went back to the lodging, made the medicine, and prescribed it to the groaning adults.

After they had drunk the medicine, they said this.

"Ryouma-kun, sorry about this, but could you take care of Elia today?" [Rheinhart]
"No matter how you look at it. With us being like this, there's no way we can look after her today." [Rheinbach]
"So won't you please take care of her, Ryouma-kun?" [Madam]

… So in other words, they're telling me to go make some memories since we won't be able to meet for a while, right? Yeah, that's probably it, so there's no way I can refuse.

"No problem, please leave it to me." [Ryouma]

After that, the three members of the Jamil Household went back to bed. From the looks of things, the part about them suffering from hangover seems to be true.

I sent them off, and then I asked Elia.

"Then, what should we do today?" [Ryouma]
"Don't you have work to do today? Aren't you busy?" [Elia]
"The shop's already being taken care of by others, so all I need to do is show my face in the morning and in the evening." [Ryouma]
"…Then in that case, could I see what Ryouma normally does?" [Elia]

“I don’t mind, but…” [Ryouma]

Is it fine with just something like that?

“Then, let’s go!” [Elia]

Like this, it was decided that Elia will be accompanying me. And Sebasu-san, too, who will be coming as Elia’s bodyguard. We went to the store first, then after that, we went to the abandoned mine.

_____

Upon arriving at the mine, I let the rimel birds from my ‘Dimension Home’ out, and then began the treatment of the cloths. During that time, I had Elia help me out with setting the cloth on the workbenches.

And then after finishing that, we were left with nothing to do as per the usual pattern of my work. I think it would be a good time to start building my house here, but there’s no way I could leave Elia alone. As I thought that, Elia asked me a question.

“What should we do next?” [Elia]
“Nothing in particular, actually. After I give the order to the sticky slimes to treat the cloths, all that’s left is to wait for the cloths to dry. This period is quite long, so it can be considered as free time from here on out. Usually, I’d just train and make dolls to pass the time.” [Ryouma]
“Really? I thought for sure Ryouma would normally keep working.” [Elia]
“Actually, I’ve been quite free ever since the store became autonomous.” [Ryouma]

Did I really look like I overworked that much?

“Did I really look that busy?” [Ryouma]
“It’s because you’re always working from morning till dusk.” [Elia]
“I see, however, I don’t actually work that much. There’re also times when I’m just dazing off, or looking for ways to kill time. And then, there are also times when I’m making building stones to use for the construction of my house later.” [Ryouma]
“So Ryouma-san really does plan to live here.” [Elia]
“Yes. After all, I have to do rounds around the mine here, and I want a place where I can train magic without being a nuisance to others. So with that in mind, I believe this is the best place.”
“When will you begin the construction? At this rate you won’t be able to live in the mine, right?” [Elia]

Right…

“For the meantime, I could just create a small shed, or dig a cave, and live there while I gradually build the house.” [Ryouma]
“Then in that case, do you mind if we talk for a bit?” [Elia]
“Of course, what is it?” [Ryouma]

We left the workshop and went somewhere where the sunlight reached. There, I made some chairs, and we talked while sitting.

“Elia, you’ll be going to school this year, right?” [Ryouma]
“Yes. All young noble ladies must attend the school at the royal capital upon reaching 12. Not attending will hurt one’s reputation amongst nobles.” [Elia]
“I see.” [Ryouma]
“…The truth is that I don’t want to go either, but unfortunately, I have to.” [Elia]
“Eh? Really?” [Ryouma]

"Yes. In fact, my parents and even my grandfather told me that if it wasn't for the fact that it was tradition to go, then they wouldn't even let me go." [Elia]
"Why?" [Ryouma]
"The school of the royal capital is also open to commoners, and every year a lot of them are accepted. And although there isn't any difference in the treatment of students based on their social standing, there are quite a bit of people that cause issues." [Elia]

Ahh… it's that cliché thing you'd expect from this kind of setting.

"Moreover, the things taught at school can be learned at home as long as we call for a tutor. In fact, I was told that it's even more beneficial for me to learn from a tutor than from the school. After all, the school is…" [Elia]

For some reason, Elia was a bit hesitant to say something.

"The school is what?" [Ryouma]
"… The chance of finding things that one should be studying there is low." [Elia]
"But it's a school, right? What's going on?" [Ryouma]
"I also don't know. It's just that father and the others told me to take care not to be influenced by the school's atmosphere. They also told me that it's fine to have bad grades in school, so I should practice the things that they'd taught me back at home." [Elia]

Eh? They're going that far?

"That's why father didn't invite you." [Elia]
"Oh, come to think of it…" [Ryouma]

He definitely didn't tell me anything about the school.

"There's no way he would ask you. After all, if you were enrolled, then you would definitely become an excellent student, and the other nobles will have their eyes on you." [Elia]
"I see, that does make sense." [Ryouma]
"That's why I'm really not that excited in going. If it wasn't a tradition, then I'd rather train with you." [Elia]

… Well since I didn't think school was fun either, I don't really have the right to say anything here… But in any case, Elia is the daughter of a duke, so she shouldn't be subject to bullying there.

"What I'm trying to say is, please don't forget your promise to meet with me after 3 years. Because of my social standing and my power, there are very few people who would talk to me normally, and become my friends." [Elia]

As she said that, her countenance became somewhat gloomy.

"I won't forget." [Ryouma]

When I said that, Elia let out a chuckle, and then said, "I'll have you prove that after 3 years. If you fall into a daze with your job again, then I'll have you remember by hammering you with the magic I'd trained for three years."

Scary!

"Please spare me that… Really though, where did you learn to talk like that?" [Ryouma]

It feels kind of different from Elia's usual image.

“In the past, my mother had apparently used a similar method to make my father remember a promise he had forgotten.” [Elia]
“I–I see…” [Ryouma]

Rheinhart-san, it’s good that you’re safe… While I was thinking that, Elia seemed to have suddenly thought of something.

“I have a good idea, Sebasu!” [Elia]
“Yes, Ojousama. How may I be of service?” [Sebasu]

Elia suddenly called Sebasu-san over, and whispered something. After Elia finished, Sebasu-san nodded, and opened his ‘Item Box’. From it he took out a small box. Elia took that box and presented it to me.

“Ryouma-san, please accept this.” [Elia]
“It’s a necklace I received from my mother on my 10th birthday.” [Elia]

As Elia opened the box, what lay inside was a golden necklace with chains of gold, and a ruby the size of a small pinky embedded on its golden pedestal. It’s simple, but luxurious. Moreover, this ruby is–…

“Magic power?” [Ryouma]

For some reason, I can feel magic power emanating from this ruby.

“Ara, did you notice? As expected of you, Ryouma-san. Actually, the ruby of this necklace is a magic gem (魔宝石).” [Elia]
“By magic gem (魔法石), you mean the same as those used for lamps?” [Ryouma]
“No, that’s incorrect. The ones used for lamps are called magic stones. Putting it simply, those are magic tools. Ryouma-san, do you know of magic jewels?” [Elia]
“Magic jewels… From what I know, there’re plenty of those in places where the concentration of magic power in the air is strong. In other words, those are stones that have magic power in them, right?” [Ryouma]
“Precisely. Magic jewels have magic power within them, and that magic power can be pulled out when using magic to use as assistance for magic control. And amongst magic jewels, there are those that are not just any ordinary stones, but gems. These gems that contain magic power came to be called magic gems. In the same vein, if it were an ore, it would then be called a magic ore.
Magic jewels are used to aid in the assistance of magic, while magic ores are used to increase the efficiency of magic tools. And as for magic gems, these can be used for anything. Whether it be to aid one’s magic, or to increase the performance of a magic tool, or even as a simple gem. On top of that, its effect is also stronger than a normal magic jewel. However, these gems are precious as their production rate is low, so these things are quite special.” [Elia]

After explaining that in one breath, she rested for a bit.

“… So what you mean to say is that this is a really valuable item.” [Ryouma]
“Yes, exactly.” [Elia]
“There’s no way I could take something so precious, you know?” [Ryouma]
“I want you to take it!” [Elia]
“Like I said, this thing is too expensive…” [Ryouma]

Like I could possible take this! As I firmly refused, Elia firmly proposed.

At that point Sebasu-san interjected, “Please calm down you two. Ryouma-sama, although the Ojousama wants you to accept this, she isn’t actually giving this to you. She only wants you to keep it until you meet again.”
“Keep it? Why?” [Ryouma]

"Ryouma-sama, you may not be aware of it, but there is a belief where letting your friend keep something precious before going somewhere far, will increase your chances of meeting again. It isn't known who spread this belief, but it's a story from long ago, and it's being practiced even till today as a bringer of luck." [Serge]

Ahh, so it's something like that.

"And so, because of that, you want me to take the necklace." [Ryouma]
"Exactly." [Elia]
"…Isn't this something important to you? Is it really ok?" [Ryouma]
"If it wasn't, then I wouldn't have told you so in the first place. I believe you, so please give it back in 3 years." [Elia]

Mu… to actually be trusted to this degree… Moreover, for it to be because of a promise to meet again…

"I understand. I'll take care of it until we meet again." [Ryouma]
"Really!?" [Elia]
"In exchange, I'll definitely give it back." [Ryouma]
"Of course." [Elia]

And so, I accepted the box, and put it inside my 'Item Box'. If it's here, then I definitely won't lose it.

"Next is…" [Elia]

I thought that I should also give Elia something, and so, I thought of what I could give. …What's my most treasured item? Money? Wait, I couldn't give something like that. It'd be too bulky to carry… Then in that case, pelt? But that's not particularly important…. How about building stones? Ingots? Waterproof cloths? … Erm, I don't seem to have anything satisfactory…

Then it hit me.

"'Dimension Home'."

I take out a heal slime and a scavenger slime from my 'Dimension Home' and present them to Elia.

"Ryouma-san, these two are?" [Elia]
"I couldn't think of anything precious I could give you, and the only thing I could really think of as precious are my slimes, so… I think these two slimes could become useful to you, so please take them." [Ryouma]

Elia was taken aback when she heard that, and barely keeping herself together, she covered her mouth with her hand as she tried not to laugh.

So it's weird after all, huh? Or rather, why did I pick slimes as my mementos? Well, it's actually because I didn't have anything else that's suitable, but… No, in the first place, it's a bit questionable to use slimes as a memento, but… isn't there anything else?

"Fufu… I'm sorry, Ryouma-san. I just thought it was just like you to think of something like that… thank you, I'll take care of them." [Elia]
"Really? Thank you very much." [Ryouma]
"No, the pleasure is mine. Thank you for lending me your most precious slave monsters." [Elia]

I let down the heal slime and scavenger slime in my arms, and then cancelled the contract. And then, Elia contracted those two.

"I've successfully contracted them. I'll take care of them well." [Elia]

“Thank you very much.” [Ryouma]

After that, we talked about slimes, magic, and I even showed her some of my alchemy. Like that, time passed, and eventually dusk was before us. We used space magic, and went back to the town.

Upon arrival, we went to check the store for a bit, and when we got there, we saw the store bustling with adventurers and doctors. The adventurers who went to the swamp, and the doctors who processed the grell frogs, were all covered in blood and mud. Because of them, the store was bustling with customers, and the business was flourishing.

After that short stop, we went back to the lodging. Rheinhart-san and the others seemed to have already recovered from their hangover.

“Welcome back, Ryouma-kun.” [Rheinhart]
“Thanks for taking care of Elia today.” [Madam]
“Please don’t mind it. It was fun for me too.” [Ryouma]
“Ryouma-san taught me a lot of magic. And while I still can’t use it well, I’ll do my best to learn them!” [Elia]

From the flow of the conversation, Elia learned the combination of the ice magic ‘Freeze’, which freezes things a little, and the wind magic ‘Breeze’, which creates air, known as, ‘Cooler’. There’s also the ice magic ‘Ice Cube’, and a bunch of other things that I taught her. Although it would appear that she still can’t use anything else aside from ‘Ice Cube’.

Incidentally, since Sebasu-san was also with us, I taught him the magic, ‘Mist Wash’, and ‘Water Gun’. And just as you’d expect from Sebasu-san, despite me having only given him a simple explanation of compressing and shooting, he quickly learned how to use the magic after only five tries. And was even able to cut the rock I made with earth magic as a target into two.

Going back to the story.

“That’s great, Elia.” [Rheinbach]
“Yes! Also, Ryouma-san lent me his heal slime and scavenger slime.” [Elia]
“Ara, really? Take care of them well, Elia.” [Madam]
“Of course.” [Elia]

And so, after that, we continued to talk about the day we met, and all sorts of other things until midnight.

The Day of Separation.

The duke’s household and the guards rode the carriage at the place behind the lodging where the carriages where. And one after another, they called out to me from the window of the carriage.

“Take care of your body.” [Rheinhart]
“Don’t push yourself, ok?” [Madam]
“You should rest from time to time.” [Rheinbach]
“If something comes up, be sure to contact us.” [Sebasu]
“If you have some free time, come over to our place. [Jill]
“Do your best, young master.” [Zeff]
“Be well.” [Camil]
“Keep yourself together.” [Hyuzu]
“I’ll pray for your good health and fortune.” [Araune]

The members of the duke's household, Araune, and Jill-san and co. all called out to me.

"Everyone, as well, please take care. Thank you for everything until now." [Ryouam]

As I said that, I bowed my head. I hate the fact that I'm not good at talking about various things for extended periods… I wish I could get my feelings across better…

"Ryouma-san, until the day we meet again, I'll be doing my best to improve my skills!" [Elia]

Declared Elia from the top of the carriage.

"I'll be doing the same too." [Ryouma]
"Do your best!" [Elia & Ryouma]

As my words overlapped with Elia's, we laughed. With the time of departure here, the escorts were the first to start moving as they led the convoy from the front.

Elia and the others waved towards me from the window as they left. And I too waved to the fleeting carriage as I sent them off, the carriage eventually turning into a silhouette, until finally I could see it no more. With the carriage gone, I too walked away, showed my face at the shop, and then headed to the mine.

From today on I won't be living in the lodging but here, in the mine! Because of that I have to get started with the construction of my house!

"……..Fuu……."

Suddenly, I stop, and I look at the sky. I don't have time to be sentimental. I know that. And yet, I can't help but feel lonely. No, I'm not regretting my choice, but… at times like this, there's nothing else to it except to work until I forget.

……Ahh, but then if I did that, then when I send my letter, it won't have anything in it but work. She'll probably get mad at me if I did that.

As I thought that, it would appear that I somehow lightened up as I could feel my face make a broad grin. Somehow, I feel better. Well then, let's continue like this.

"Fuu… Let me say that again, I'll do my best!" [Ryouma]

I walk towards the mine again. But this time, with a cheerful mood, just like always. And so, like usual, my day also begins.

Volume 2 End

Idle Talk 1 (Extra Story)

TL Note: Edit done on 2015/08/02. Fixed a few things here and there.

A god in the form of a thin man was standing by himself in the divine realm when the three main gods appeared.

“Ah~… I’m tired…” [Rurutia]
“We finally got back.” [Kufo]
“Oh, if it isn’t Fer Noevir.” [Gayn]
“It’s quite rare for you to come out of your place.” [Rurutia]

The one who was standing was the god of magic, Fer Noevir. As well as the three gods, Gayn, Kufo, and Rurutia.

“Well, I was forcefully brought here, but I am also a little concerned.” [Fer Noevir]
“Forcefully?” [Gayn, Kufo, Rurutia]

Suddenly, 4 gods came out of nowhere, and Gayn’s group was surrounded.

“Eh? Wait, what’s with this situation?” [Kufo]
“Why are we being surrounded?” [Rurutia]
“Aren’t you going to explain yourselves?” [Gayn]

One god stepped out. It was Tekun.

“You dare ask with your hands in your chest? I won’t let you say you don’t know, Gayn.”
“Why are you suddenly mad?” [Gayn]
“Now, now, calm down for a bit, Tekun-san. If you push them like that, we won’t be able to talk.” [Willieris]
“Exactly. You should calm down, and drink some alcohol or something.” [Grimp]

The two gods who remonstrated Tekun are the goddess of land and harvest, Willieris, and the god of farming and livestock, Grimp. These two are particularly gentle amongst the different gods. The Goddess of Land and Harvest looked like a refined, middle-aged woman. While the God of Farming and Livestock was a middle-aged man with a hoe on his shoulder. These two gods are husband and wife.

Although Tekun wasn’t in a good mood after being remonstrated, he kept quiet, and drank wine while he settled down. With Grimp by her side, Willieris explained.

“The reason we’re acting like this is because we heard that you three went off to a different world to play. The first one who heard this was Tekun, and since he also wanted to waste some time, he got mad.” [Willieris]

Fer Noevir interjected, “In order to find you three, Tekun even called out to Willieris and Grimp to get me to use my power.”
“Come to think of it, you even used your power to prevent Tekun from going into your place, right?” [Rurutia]
“His craft aside, he’s rough and irresponsible. He does nothing but drink wine and make noise. He’s a nuisance.” [Fer Noevir]
“Hey! You bastards! I can hear you, you know!?” [Tekun]
“It’s not like you have any business at my place. And it’s not like you’re the only one not permitted to enter either. Anyway, enough of that. What were you thinking going to a different world just to play?” [Fer Noevir]
“Wait a moment, who told you that?” [Rurutia]

Tekun answered Rurutia's question.

"Drop the act, I heard it from Ryouma. Didn't Kufo tell him so? I thought he was lying at the time so I read his mind, but apparently he wasn't." [Tekun]
"Oops–… I told him not to tell other humans, but I forgot to mention that he shouldn't tell it to the other gods too…" whispered Kufo as he slapped his forehead.

After that, chairs, arranged in a circle, appeared out of nowhere and the three gods decided to talk about it while they all sat.

"Now, can you start talking? Or rather, you should have taken me with you!" [Tekun]
"That you went there for fun aside, we really can't ignore the fact that you've been going to another world frequently." [Willieris]
"Mind explaining yourselves?" [Grimp]
"Right, actually… We came there to check up on the God of Earth." [Gayn]
"We talked about it before remember? That thing about Ryouma's supposed happiness being stolen by the God of Earth." [Rurutia]
"Right, I do remember being surprised that a god would actually do something forbidden like that." [Tekun]
"So because of that, we decided to go check." [Kufo]
"Eh? You didn't go there to play?" [Tekun]
"We haven't told Ryouma about the fact that the God of Earth stole his happiness, so I gave him an excuse." [Kufo]

When Tekun heard that, his anger quickly simmered down.

"Oh… so that's what it was." [Tekun]
"Tekun, you don't get mad except for things regarding fun, huh?' [Fer Noevir]
"It's still plenty a problem to be frequently going to a different world, you know?" [Willieris]

Fer Noevir and Willieris were shocked at Tekun's reaction. But Fer Noevir, quickly regaining his composure and asked Gayn's group a question.

"Won't there be a problem if you keep on doing that?" [Fer Noevir]
"There won't be a problem but…" [Gayn]
"It's quite difficult to go there without getting caught." [Kufo]
"We haven't been seen so far, but the god on the other side is acting strange… While it's not the same as with Ryouma's, even until now, that god has been taking other people's happiness. But the really strange thing is that he doesn't seem to be using it for anything." [Rurutia]
"At first we thought he was giving something to his believers, but that didn't seem to be the case at all. He's just stealing as he pleases without giving it to anyone." [Gayn]

"The management of the world is also sloppy. The people there may no longer have much to develop in terms of technology, but… even though we went through all the trouble of sneaking in because of the rule of not getting involved in other worlds, anticlimactically we were able to get in really easily. We looked so stupid for trying not to get caught." [Kufo]
"We even thought there might be a trap, but in the end, there was nothing. With that kind of management, he wouldn't even be able to respond if a demon king from a different world were to attack." [Gayn]
"He's that sloppy? If that's so, then he's no longer doing his job as a god, is he?" [Fer Noevir]
"That might actually be the case…" [Gayn]

"To begin with, what on earth is he planning to do with all that happiness he's stealing? That kind of thing is useless to us, gods." [Grimp]
"Well it's also possible to use it to preserve our strength when the people lose faith in us… but if the world is safe, then a god's power shouldn't go below the minimum power needed. So what is he doing with it?" [Willieris]

"It's certainly true that the Japanese of that world have less faith than the people of this world, but the humans of the other countries of that world have strong faith. Hence, there still shouldn't be any problem. There's also the issue with that world's environment and the nature there is getting rough, but there's still no reason to run out of power. And it's precisely because of that, that we're sending magic power here from that world." [Gayn]
"That's certainly true. I made a foolish question. But if that's the case, then there really isn't any reason for him to steal happiness. Exactly what is that god using it for?" [Fei Noevir]

All of the sudden, the god that hadn't said a word until now opened her mouth.

"… Does the reason really matter? We don't do things like stealing people's happiness, so we may not know, but because of that isn't it possible that there actually is a way to use it? Isn't that enough? Then, all that's left is for us to beat that god if he comes here picking a fight." [God]
"Kirilel, you're saying that kind of simple thing again… You're a muscle-brain as usual I see. Really, a woman like you…" [Fer Noevir]

With a forged body, an armor, and a sheathed sword at her waist, the one who proclaimed that was the God of War, Kirilel. Her body is well trained, but there are also parts that are supple. Her manner of talking is like that of a man, but she is a full-fledged goddess.

"Who is a muscle-brain!? Even I can use my head!" [Kirilel]
"The only thing you use your head for is for fighting techniques!" [Fer Noevir]
"Exactly! But even then, it doesn't change the fact that I'm using my head! In fact, isn't this way healthier than someone like you, who does nothing but isolate himself in his place?" [Kirilel]
"What does health have to do with a god, when our bodies are indestructible?" [Fer Noevir]

These two gods have opposing personalities, so whenever they meet, things usually end up like this. Before things got worse, Gayn interjected and asked Kirilel a question.

"Let's put that discussion aside for now, Kirilel why are you here? You weren't called by Tekun, right?" [Gayn]
"What are you talking about, gramps? I am the God of War, you know? Where there is conflict there is war. And where there is war, so am I! I came here because I felt Tekun's anger, and after listening to his story, I found out that gramps and the others went to play in the other world. So I've been waiting here quietly because I thought we'd be giving an execution." [Kirilel]
"There's no need!" [Gayn]
"That's not something to joke about!" [Kufo]
"You're a god, so you can normally kill us, right!?" [Rurutia]
"There's no need to worry. I won't do anything this time. I understand that the God of Earth is acting weird. And because of him, something strange happened with the soul of that guy, Ryouma. Ryouma isn't someone who'd thoughtlessly wreak havoc, so it's fine. But if he was someone dangerous, then the situation would have become terrible. From now on there's a possibility that the souls we bring here might be abnormal. You understand why we need to be wary of that, right? But of course, I won't do anything either as long as the God of Earth doesn't attack the world here." [Kirilel]

The God of War, Kirilel, is the strongest amongst the gods when it comes to fighting. Because of this, she is the god who brings harm to the people of the world, and is also the god who protects the world from its enemies. Hence, she is also known as the God of Judgment.

She rarely has any work to do as the God of Judgment. But if the humans were to do something that would bring great harm to the world, the one to bestow judgment will mostly be her. And while strange, it would appear that she also became the judge for the sins of the three gods. Gayn and the others do not specialize in fighting, so winning against her is impossible. Moreover, despite both being gods, if she went full force she would also be able to destroy all three of them.

But of course, they wouldn't disappear. But they would still end up quite hurt. So because of that they were quite relieved when they heard Kirilel's words.

"This is bad for the heart…" [Rurutia]
"I think my lifespans just shortened..." [Kufo]
"Please don't scare old people too much…" [Gayn]
"Gods don't need to worry about hearts and lifespans though. Well, in any case, it doesn't seem like I'm needed here, so I'll be taking my leave. There are still some people who are continuing to fight, so I'm quite busy compared to you guys." [Kirilel]
"Right, sorry." [Tekun]
"It's not like you called me here, I just came on my own. Also, Gayn, Kufo, Rurutia, keep it moderate, ok? You guys going to the other world." [Kirilel]
"Right…" [Gayn]
"That's true." [Kufo]
"Let's alternate from now on." [Rurutia]
"You're not going to stop?" [Kirilel]
"But I still haven't…" [Rurutia]

Halfway through her speech, Tekun interjected.

"Still haven't? What is that, 'still haven't'?" [Tekun]
"Oh, nothing in particular." [Rurutia]
"There's no need to understand the god on the other side." [Kufo]
"Right, right." [Gayn]

Gayn's group acted unconcerned, but then Willieris asked a question.

"Are you guys still hiding something?" [Willieris]

At those words, Tekun once more emanated a dangerous aura.

"Did you bastards really go there to investigate the God of Earth?" [Tekun]
"That's right." [Rurutia]
"But of course." [Gayn]
"We investigated the god on the other side, you know?" [Kufo]
"Even now he's still stealing happiness from his people, so that's not a lie. Then in that case, I'll change the question. Did you do anything else aside from investigating?" [Tekun]

The three gods stiffened.

"What's the matter? Kufo, didn't you tell Ryouma that you went sightseeing in Earth?" [Tekun]
"Well, that's because we were looking for the people who had their happiness taken away. Because of that we ended up seeing some places. Calling something like that, 'sightseeing', is a misunderstanding, you know?" [Kufo]
"In other words, you thought that you could go sightseeing." [Fer Noevir]

At Fer Noevir's words, Kufo was surprised and his body shook.

"Wait a moment, isn't that a leading question!?" [Kufo]
"Kufo, you know if you say something like that, then you're basically admitting that you took the opportunity to sightsee while looking for people." [Grimp]

At Kufo's words, Grimp whispered that. And once again, Tekun's aura became dangerous as he asked Gayn.

“Gayn, I don’t understand it well, but I heard that you got hooked to something called, ‘idol’.” [Tekun]
“In Earth, idols are experts who dance and sing. You can see them often from the boxes that show reflections on Earth called TV. You can also see them downtown if you have the chance to meet them. But, don’t misunderstand, ok? It’s not like I went out of my way to see them.” [Gayn]
“Song and dance, huh? Then in that case, this world also has it. It’s not really something…” [Tekun]

While Tekun quickly calmed down when he heard the words ‘song' and 'dance’, this time Gayn’s eyes sharpened, and he flared up at Tekun.

“Don’t group idols with the things from this world!! The idols of Earth are cute and diligent!! Whenever I see them, I can’t help but want to cheer them on!!” [Gayn]
“Ah, ahh?” [Tekun]

Tekun couldn’t help but falter before that menacing look. But at that moment, Gayn noticed his mistake, and it showed on his face.

Seeing that Willieris said, “Seeing you this serious about those so called idols, I think I understand perfectly well what’s going on now.”

Tekun’s gaze moved towards Rurutia. Having realized that the ruse is up, Rurutia answered before Tekun could even ask her.

“As for me I just ate some sweet things during break time while we were moving on Earth, you know?” [Rurutia]

At that, Tekun’s anger and the Gayn trio’s shriek roared throughout the divine realm.

Glossary

–de aru – This ending is a form of '–desu' and is often used in historical dramas or documentary programs and it means "to exist as...." (see **–de gozaru**)

–de gozaru (～ござる) – This ending (and it's contemporary form '–desu' (です)) is a Japanese copula or word used to grammatically link a subject and predicate, often translated into English using the verb "is/are/am." It is also a phrase that is added to the end of a statement to make them polite. '–De gozaru' is a more archaic style and is commonly used to denote someone who is a samurai.

–kun – this is used by people of senior status in addressing or referring to those of junior status, or by anyone when addressing or referring to male children or male teenagers, or among male friends. It can also be used by females when addressing a male that they are emotionally attached to or have known for a long period of time

–sama – It is a rarely-used more respectful version of *san* for people much higher in rank than oneself. i.e. Sebasu and the maids calling Elialia, "Ojou-sama"

–san – this derived from *sama*, is the most commonplace honorific, and is a title of respect typically used between equals of any age. Although the closest analog in English are the honorifics "Mr.", "Miss", "Ms.", or "Mrs.", *-san* is almost universally added to a person's name, "-san" can be used in both formal and informal contexts, and for any gender.

Adventurers Guild – One of the guilds with branches in many towns and cities. Adventurers have 8 ranks from G to S (S being above A). If a prospective adventurer wishes to join, they must first pass a test to show their skill and proficiency. Adventurers are then able to accept jobs based on their rank, but must pay a penalty if they quit without completing the quest. The guilds job is to provide information and certain services to the members.

Araune – Maid of the Jamil family

Asagi – A rank A dragon newt adventurer who has a tendency to say '–de gozaru' at the end of his sentences and speaks in a way similar to a samurai.

Bridge of Scheme – A young adventurer group that found the rare magical beast, blood slime, and sold it to Ryouma when they were turned away at the tamers guild.

Caulkins – Called 'Old Caulkins' by Jeff. He's described as looking like a laid-off thin middle aged salary worker. Disgraced as a slave magic user, and a former nobleman, he studied slimes and has been living in the slums until he began working for Ryouma. Worked with Robelia and Tony.

Camil – Former adventurer and mage, now serving the Jamil family.

Carm Norad – Formerly one of Serge's most trusted aids until he, Along with his older twin sister, were sent to work with Ryouma when he opened his store. At first apprehensive, he and his sister, quickly grew enthusiastic when they learned of the potential the store had.

Celma – She was a cook at an inn before it closed down due to the innkeeper becoming too old. Currently employed at laundry agency bamboo forest.

Chiara – Female acquaintance of Poline.

Currency – See **Suit**.

Dalton Digger – Blacksmith and owner of Digger Arms Shop. Trusted and recommended by Wogan, has recently tried to appear more friendlier to new customers with dismal results.

Elialia Jamil – Only child and daughter of Elize and Rheinhart Jamil. Called Elia by those close to her, she has difficulty making friends as people are scared of the fact she has magic power of 200,000. She has her father's looks in her blond hair and blue eyes. She has become a good friend to Ryouma with some probably romantic feelings.

Elize Jamil – Wife of Rheinhart and a Slave magic user proficient in 4 legged beasts (little fenrirs). Has one daughter and is attached and protective of Ryouma. Her appearance is that of an attractive 30 year old woman with red hair and green eyes.

Fang of Orbtem – Adventurer's group of approximately 40 members. Although most are high ranked adventurer's they are mostly known as thugs who bully, blackmail, and steal from weaker adventurer's. Defeated by Ryouma and his slimes.

Fei – A merchant and assassin from the country of Gilmar. Fled to the Jamil duchy when war erupted in his country. While he is trying to live the life of a simple merchant now, he can't feel comfortable unless he wears hidden weapons. He's currently a receptionist and guard at Ryouma's shop and is described as having old Chinese style clothes, probably a changshan.

Fer Noevir – He is the god of magic. He is described as a thin older man.

Fina – One of the young ladies who came to a poor village to seek their fortunes in town. She came to work at Ryouma's store by way of the merchant guild.

Forest of Gana – Wild forest located in the duchy of Jamil, it has no magical beasts other than slimes. The top of the food chain and most dangerous animal in the forest is the black bear. The place Ryouma stayed for 3 years after his arrival to Seiruforu.

Fundoujutsu – The Art of Weight/Counterweight, or the use of ball and chain as a weapon.

Gayn – One of the gods of Seiruforu, his role is being the God of Creation. His appearance is that of a young boy and has a habit of visiting earth since he has taken a fancy to Japanese idol groups.

Gilmar – One of the countries in the world of Seiruforu. It is currently in a state of war and internal strife which has caused many of its people to flee to other countries.

Gimuru – Mining town in the duchy of Jamil. Large enough to have a Tamer, Adventurer, and Merchant Guild.

Goblin – Low level monster that can be enslaved with magic. Has stature of a small child and anatomy similar to a human. They are known for their low level of intelligence, their high reproductive rate, and for being very filthy to the point the saying, "The hardest thing to clean in the whole world is a goblin's laundry" exists. Larger goblin colonies can have higher ranked individuals such as goblin mages, goblin knights, and goblin kings.

Gordon – Rank B Dwarf adventurer who has the Disease Resist skill.

Grell Frog – Magical Beasts found in the swamp to the north of the town of Gimuru located between the township and the abandoned mine. Once a year Grell Frogs swarm and are collected by adventurers for their hide which can be made into armor, and their entrails which can be made into high end medicine. They are a favored food of the Rimel Bird. (see **Rimel Bird**)

Grimp – The god of farming and livestock. He's described as a middle-aged man with a hoe on his shoulder, he is married to Willieris. See **Willieris**.

Grisela – Looking like an old woman with a humped back, she is the guild master of the merchant guild. Has a sharp business sense as well as an acute perception of non-verbal cues, to the point where some merchant guild members have thought she could read their minds. Has a friendly yet insulting relationship with adventurer guild master Wogan.

Hyuzu – Former adventurer and spearman, now serving the Jamil family. Owes his life to Ryouma after he was attacked by a black bear.

Jeanne – One of the young ladies who came to a poor village to seek their fortunes in town. She came to work at Ryouma's store by way of the merchant guild.

Jeff –Rank B adventurer and friend of Ryouma's. Can only use healing magic and is a resident of the slums. He has introduced Ryouma to slave magic users that can be used in his shop as he expands his business.

Jija – A ginger like root thought to only be used for medicinal purposes. Has high salt quantity.

Jill – Former adventurer and swordsman, now serving the Jamil family.

Karla Norad – Formerly one of Serge's most trusted aids until she, Along with her younger twin brother, were sent to work with Ryouma when he opened his store. At first apprehensive, she and her brother, quickly grew enthusiastic when they learned of the potential the store had.

Kenjutsu – A blanket term for all sword based martial arts.

Kereban – The biggest commercial town within the duchy of Jamil, boasts a very large population for a medieval period town.

Kirilel – She is the goddess of war and judgment. Often seen wearing armor and weapons, she speaks with male inflections and is seen by the rest of the gods as a 'muscle brain'.

Kufo – One of the gods of Seiruforu, His role is being the God of Life. His appearance is that of an old man and has visited earth many times to see the many exotic organisms that exist in various parts of the world… including Atlantis it seems.

Li Ling – A merchant and assassin from the country of Gilmar. Fled to the Jamil duchy with her father when war erupted in his country. While she is trying to live the life of a simple merchant now, she can't feel comfortable unless she wears hidden weapons. She's currently a receptionist and guard at Ryouma's shop. She is described as wearing old fashioned Chinese clothing, more than likely a cheongsam.

Lilian – A maid in the service of the Jamil household.

Maria – One of the young ladies who came to a poor village to seek their fortunes in town. She came to work at Ryouma's store by way of the merchant guild.

Mary – Female acquaintance of Poline.

Matthew Ganteyn – Branch Manager of the Tamer Guild Branch of the Town of Gimuru. Reached his position by sucking up to those with status and seems to treat those below his station as tools as opposed to treating his subordinates as people.

Meilin – Receptionist at the Adventurers Guild.

Melzen of the Red Spear – Famous bandit defeated by Ryouma. Known to carry a magic flame spear, his bounty was 700 small gold coins.

Merchant Guild – Information and regulation organization used by Merchants within the kingdom. They regulate sales of land, taxes, and they are known as an employment center. Higher ranked members pay a premium to have information and accommodations provided to them regarding issues that could impact their businesses. While small businesses (stalls, peddling, etc) do not need to register with the guild, businesses that make a lot of money and do not register with the guild are seen as illegal and will bring the attention of the guild. There are no restrictions on age or gender to register with the guild, and there is not test that needs to be passed (as opposed to the Adventurers and Tamers Guild). (See **Grisela**)

Miya – Cat beastman and rank B adventurer, she had a house that had a garbage problem which Ryouma thankfully cleaned and fixed. Has a tendency to say 'Nya' when ending a sentence.

Mizelia – Female tiger tribe beastman and rank B adventurer.

Nightmare Rimel Bird – Similar in appearance to a rimel bird, the Nightmare Rimel Bird is a rare evolved form and can use dark magic with their wind magic to create an attack that targets the mind and spirit of their opponents. See **Rimel Bird** and **Phantom Rimel Bird**.

Ojousama (Ojou-sama, お嬢様, おじょうさま**)** – Classic archetype that generally refers to a rich, beautiful, but stuck up, demanding girl. As far as actual world meaning Ojou refers to "My Lady/Mistress/etc."

Phantom Rimel Bird – Similar in appearance to a rimel bird and a nightmare rimel bird, the Phantom Rimel Bird is a rare evolved form that can use light and wind magic. Both the Phantom and Nightmare evolutions of the Rimel Bird seem to have a richer color added to their feathers. See **Rimel Bird and Nightmare Rimel Bird**.

Pioro Saionji – Merchant with a thin build, speaks with an accent similar to that spoken in the Kansai region of Japan, and manager of the Saionji Firm, a food handling business. His ancestor was an other-worlder who, in the pursuit of creating Japanese cuisine, created a food transportation empire.

Poline – Flower shopkeeper and owner of the store near Ryouma's laundromat. She is an attractive woman with two kids, Rick and Reni. (see **Rick**, **Reni**)

Poly – E ranked adventurer and leader of the cleanup crew during the goblin village extermination campaign.

Qigong (气功氣功) – Life energy cultivation, the practice of meditation and movement techniques used in martial arts. thought to be used in the manipulation of Qi.

Ramon – A lemon-like fruit.

Raypin – Rank A Human adventurer, has tendency to say '–de aru' at the end of his sentences. Was a former magical beast researcher with Caulkins at an institute before deciding to leave and research magical beasts on his own.

Reni – A young tomboyish girl who lives near Ryouma's laundromat. She has a young rascally brother named Rick and works with her mother at her mother's flower shop.

Rheinbach Jamil – Former duke of the Jamil duchy and father of Rheinhart. He is a proficient slave magic user who has been able to tame dragons. His appearance is that of a 63 year old man with blue eyes, his physique is still fit and strong despite his age.

Rheinhart Jamil – He is the feudal lord of the Jamil duchy. Proficient in sword techniques, slave magic, and was a former adventurer. His appearance is that of a fit 33 year old man with blond hair and blue eyes.

Ribble – Boss in the slums. Tries to look after those who can't look after themselves with help from Jeff. Appears to be a man in his 60's.

Rick – A young boy who lives near Ryouma's laundromat. He has an older sister and mother who operate a flower shop. He's considered a rascal by all who know him.

Rimel Bird – A carnivorous magical bird beast that appears in the swamp during the Grell Frog outbreak. It has beautiful blue wings, an even more beautiful voice, and it can use wind magic. It is a popular bird which can also fly quite fast and can attack with the help of wind magic, so unfortunately it's quite difficult to catch. Because of this there are very few people who are able to use slave magic on one. And therefore, it's very rare to see one that is not tamed. Ryouma described them as looking like a long-tailed cock without a cockscomb having a blue body and a head and tail adorned with beautiful green feathers. The most popular way to attract its attention is by playing a musical instrument. See **Nightmare Rimel Bird**.

Robelia – 25 year old former researcher, she was sexually harassed at work and harmed her pursuer with her slave beast. Unfortunately he was also her boss, who demoted and later fired her. She still researches slimes but had not only moved to the slums but worked in a brothel a few times a week to make ends meet. Left both the slums and the brothel to work in Ryouma's shop along with Caulkins and Tony.

Rurutia – One of the gods of Seiruforu, Her role is being the God of Love and Healing. Her appearance is that of a young woman and has a habit of visiting earth to eat various types of dessert since they do not exist in Seiruforu due to scarcity of ingredients.

Ryouma Takebayashi – A 39 year old Japanese man with extremely bad luck, reborn in a new world with all his old skills as an 8 year old. Has lived the past 3 years in the forest before meeting the Jamil household, he joined them in their travels around the Jamil duchy before settling in the mining town of Gimuru. He is a researcher and master of many slime monsters and has recently started a booming laundry business. His name means Bamboo Forest Dragon Horse. Recently he tamed his first non-slime beasts, 5 Rimel Birds and a rare Nightmare Rimel Bird.

Sebasu – 65 year old butler of the Jamil family and proficient user of Space Magic. Has had many pupils, however as it is a difficult magic to teach, very few of those pupils have reached Sebasu's level. He has served two generations of Jamil family members and is a fit combatant should the need arise.

Sacchi – Leader of the Fang of Orbtem and a high ranked adventurer. When he was younger he was considered an accomplished adventurer before pride and fear turned him into a hoodlum and a bandit who used poison in his duels.

Seiruforu – A fantasy like world that Ryouma was sent to so that his presence could help replenish the diminished mana of the world. As of now, Ryouma has yet to encounter anyone else who has black hair like his.

Serge Morgan – Stout merchant friend of Duke Jamil and president of the Morgan Firm. Has a favorable opinion in regards to Ryouma and is the buyer and distributor of Ryouma's slime and alchemy products.

Shale – A young human rank D adventurer with a disease resist skill.

Shiho Jamil – Founder of the Jamil family, she was an other-worlder who asked the gods to create slave magic when they sent her to Seiruforu. Because of this, she had no limit to the number of magic beasts she could contract with, but also had an affinity with all magical beasts, while most modern slave magic users were limited in both of these aspects. (i.e. only being able to contract with 4 legged beasts or only being able to contract with 20 creatures.)

Skills – Abilities which can be learned through constant usage. To raise proficiency one must continue to use the skills repeatedly, however some are difficult to rise as it can be dangerous. Resistance skills such as the poison resist skill can only be raised by coming into contact or consuming poisons and surviving. Similarly disease resist skills can sometimes only be raised after surviving a life threatening disease.

Slimes – Low level monsters that have low attack power. They are usually the first monster enslaved by monster tamers. They have been researched extensively but no breakthroughs have been made before Ryouma discovered them. There are some slimes which are regarded as high level slimes such as sticky, poison, and metal slimes. And some are able to combine into larger forms such as the big, huge, and king slimes. Being such simple creatures, they do not need much beyond water to survive.

Suit – Form of currency used in Seiruforu (like the Yen or Dollar). The currency is entirely in coin form.

Coin Type	Suits	Equivalent Coin Amount
1 small copper	1	N/A
1 medium copper	10	10 small copper
1 big copper	100	10 medium copper
1 small silver	500	5 big copper
1 medium silver	1,000	2 small silver
1 big silver	5,000	5 middle silver
1 small gold	10,000	2 big silver
1 medium gold	50,000	5 small gold
1 big gold	100,000	2 medium gold
1 small white gold	1,000,000	10 big gold
1 medium white gold	10,000,000	10 small white gold
1 big white gold	100,000,000	10 medium white gold

Syria – Female rabbit tribe beastman and rank B adventurer.

Taijutsu – A blanket term for all unarmed martial arts.

Tamer Guild – The guild to which the two classes of practitioners that control magical beasts, the Slave Magic Users and the Conjurers belong too. Their job is to provide information and certain services to the members.

Tekun – One of the gods of Seiruforu, his role is being the God of Wine and (separately) the God of Art and Craft. Gave Ryouma his blessing because he liked the way Ryouma drank his sake and the quantity he drank not to mention that he was entranced by Ryouma's practicing of 'Drunken Fist'. Tekun's blessing as the God of Wine allows one to more easily find rare and good wine, and to never get drunk. He appears as a short, thick haired man… probably dwarf like as he is mainly worshiped by the dwarf race for both of his aspects.

Toll – An older boy around Ryouma's age who lives near Ryouma's laundromat. He is friends with Rick and Reni and is more polite than either.

Tony – A 23 year old talented slave magic user, he is an earnest and honest man who was taken advantage of by his former bosses and ended up in the slums. Became an employee of Ryouma's store.

Tsukkomi – Boke and tsukkomi are loosely equivalent to the roles of "funny man" or "comic" (boke) and "straight man" (tsukkomi) in the comedy duos of western culture.

Wereanna – High ranked B female adventurer of the dog beastman race and friend to Ryouma.

Willieris – She is the goddess of land and harvest. She is described as looking like a refined, middle-aged woman. Her husband is the god Grimp. See **Grimp**.

Wogan – S ranked adventurer and guild master of the Adventurers Guild Branch in the Town of Gimuru. He is kind, fair, and protective of his guild members but has an evil face. Some of the guild members joke that he has the 'face of a bandit' and he makes people scream if they encounter him at night. Has a friendly yet insulting relationship with merchant guild master Grisela.

Zeff – Former adventurer and scout, now serving the Jamil family.

Zeke – Poline's husband and a butcher by trade. Has been described as a very thin man with a pale, almost unhealthy complexion. His shop is located next to Poline's flower shop.